NAOMI ANDERSON JOHNSON

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
AFRO-AMERICANS IN SAN FRANCISCO
PRIOR TO WORLD WAR II

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I, Naomi Anderson Johnson, do hereby give to the San Francisco African-American Historical and Cultural Society and the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library the typed transcriptions of the interviews conducted on March 5, 1977, April 23, 1977, May 21, 1977, and June 13, 1977. At my request the tapes have been destroyed. The transcriptions are hereby open for research purposes. All literary property rights of the transcriptions, including the right to publish, in whole or in part, are held by me and my daughter, Maryanna Johnson, for twenty-five (25) years from date of interview. Permission for quoting must be granted by me or Maryanna Johnson during this period. After 25 years the literary property rights are automatically transferred to the San Francisco African-American Historical and Cultural Society and the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.

Naomi Johnson — 2/2/79
Interviewee — Date

Mara Lachatanere — 2/2/79
Interviewer — Date

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INTERVIEW HISTORY BY DIANA LACHATANERE

Interviews held on: March 5, 1977; April 23, 1977; May 21, 1977; and June 13, 1977
Total Time of Interviews: 5 hours

Naomi Anderson Johnson's paternal grandparents came to San Francisco in the late 1800's from Ohio with their three sons, Orval, Jess, and Garland. Her grandfather, Lewis Anderson, was the first Black street-sweeper in San Francisco. In 1903, her father, Orval, brought her mother, Anna Watson, to San Francisco from Albuquerque, New Mexico and married her; later four daughters were born, Naomi, Tabytha, Hester and Mary. All, except Hester, were born in San Francisco.

Orval Anderson worked as a Red Cap for the Southern Pacific Railroad at the San Francisco Ferry Building. Among his community activities were: associate editor of the Western Outlook (Oakland), a Black-owned newspaper; Grandmaster of the Odd Fellows, a Black fraternal organization; and one of the directors of the Colored Young Men and Women's Industrial Christian Association, founded 1919 in San Francisco.

The women in Mrs. Johnson's family are acknowledged as pioneers in many respects. Her maternal grandmother, Tabytha Watson, began it all and served as a model for Mrs. Johnson and her sisters. A strong-willed and forceful woman, born in Texas five years before the Emancipation Proclamation, Mrs. Watson founded the first Black Baptist church (Mt. Olivet) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mrs. Johnson's mother, Anna, inspired by her own mother, raised her four daughters to believe in themselves and in their ability to do anything they set their minds to.

Naomi, the oldest daughter, helped her mother support the family after her father's death in 1923. The accomplishments in her life of which she is most proud are her daughter; a promising singing voice -- she sang with the Coleridge Taylor Choral Club (Booker T. Washington Community Service Center) and the Fellowship Church Choir; and her position as a school clerk with the San Francisco Board of Education during the 1940's and '50's. It is believed that Mrs. Johnson, like her sisters, was a "first" -- the first Black woman to be hired by the Board of Education in that capacity.

Tabytha, the second oldest sister, graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1928; attended Hastings and Howard University Law Schools, earning her law degree from Howard University in 1931. She returned to San Francisco and became the first Black woman in San Francisco to pass the California Bar examination in 1933. In 1935, Tabytha won the presidency of the San Francisco branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, becoming the first woman to attain that position. She died shortly afterwards.

Hester was an exceptionally intelligent girl. She was identified as a gifted child by Professor Lewis M. Terman of the Psychology Department of Stanford University, in a project he began in 1915 (Mental and Physical Traits of One Thousand Gifted Children). In the 1940's, Hester was the first Black woman hired by the San Francisco Municipal Railroad, as a streetcar conductor.

She also entered San Francisco State College at that time and was within months of earning her teaching credential before she, too, died an untimely death. Hester did her student teaching at the Frederic Burke Demonstration School, San Francisco State College, one of the first Black persons admitted to do so.

Mary, the youngest sister, was the first Black woman to study nursing at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center in the early 1930's. From there she went on to several nursing positions, two of them in California, and eventually earned a B.S. at the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's degree at Columbia University. It is thought that Mary was the first Black nurse to be employed in the positions she held in California with the Tuberculosis Association in Sacramento, and the Oakland Health Department. On her death in 1958, the California League for Nursing honored Mary with a tribute to her leadership in nursing.

Additional family members whose accomplishments within the Black community should be noted are Mrs. Johnson's husband, Edward, and her uncle, Garland Anderson. Mr. Johnson was the second Black man to be hired by the San Francisco Municipal Railroad as a motorman. Garland Anderson was a playwright and author. His play "Appearances" was the first play written by a Black person to open on Broadway (1925).

Conduct of Interview

Initially Mrs. Johnson was reluctant to participate in the project. She did not think her memory of people and events would enable her to chronicle the past sufficiently for the project. She was also concerned that hers was an ordinary life. However, her support for the goals of the project and her desire to inform people of her family's accomplishments led her to agree to be interviewed.

To assist her memory, Mrs. Johnson requested that her daughter, Maryanna, be present during the interview. This was agreed to and Ms. Johnson sat in on the first session only. This session served in part as a preliminary interview.

The time restriction on the use of the information in the transcript was requested by Mrs. Johnson in order to protect the literary property rights of her daughter, who plans to publish a book on the history of the Anderson family. The release agreement therefore reflects the project staff's desire to cooperate with the Johnsons.

Unfortunately, due to modesty, Mrs. Johnson has insisted that the tapes be destroyed. Likewise, she has allowed no current photographs to be taken or old family photographs to be copied. Xerox copies of some family photographs, however, have been provided.

Narrative of the Interview

The interview with Mrs. Johnson is a personalized one, incidentally revealing information about the San Francisco Black community. Among the areas that were covered were: family history; her childhood and family life; her education and that of her sisters; her marriage; job and career experiences of herself, her sisters, and her husband; the role of the churches as the

main avenue for group and social activities among San Francisco Blacks; the economic situation of the Black community in San Francisco during the Depression; her activities during World War II; the reaction of the Black "old-timers" to the Blacks who came to San Francisco during the war years.

Editing

Minor editing for clarity and punctuation was done by the interviewer and Maryanna Johnson. A few responses of a personal nature were deleted at the request of Mrs. Johnson.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
AFRO-AMERICANS IN SAN FRANCISCO PRIOR TO WORLD WAR II
Co-Sponsored by:
The Friends of the San Francisca Public Library, and
San Francisco African-American Historical and Cultural Society

Project Coordinator: Lynn Bonfield

INTERVIEW WITH NAOMI JOHNSON

MARCH 5, 1977

Home of Mrs. Johnson, San Francisco, California.
During the first session Mrs. Johnson's daughter, Maryanna Johnson, was present.

Interviewer: Diana Lachatanere
Transcriber: Linda Burnham

BEGIN TAPE 1:5:1

DL: This is an interview with Mrs. Naomi Johnson at her home in San Francisco on March 5, 1977. The interview is for an oral history project on Blacks in San Francisco prior to 1945. The interviewer is Diana Lachatanere.

Mrs. Johnson, did your mother ever tell you anything about her childhood?

NJ: Yes she did.

DL: What kinds of things did she relate to you?

NJ: Well, she had a very hard childhood.

DL: Where was she growing up?

NJ: She was growing up in Texas, in Gainesville, Texas. And she had to work. She was only about five years old when she started to work for some White people. She had to do the chewing and what not for the little girl, and then take it from her mouth and feed it to the child. Then she didn't go to school, was in and out of school, and she finally got a scholarship to Bishop College. But she didn't finish there at all because she had to go home and help her mother with the work. She did domestic work.

DL: Your mother did?

NJ: My mother -- my grandmother did domestic work.

DL: How many children did your grandmother have?

NJ: She had two. My mother and a brother, a son. And they moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

DL: When was she growing up? The years, do you remember at least the span of years that she was growing up in Gainesville? That was after emancipation I assume.

NJ: Oh definitely. My grandmother was only five years old when the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. And then she had to go to work at an early age to try to help raise her children after she had attained adulthood.

DL: How long did your mother work for this family where she was chewing the food for them?

NJ: Oh, I don't know. Until she got to a certain -- she had reached adulthood and then she had gone to Bishop College.

DL: And you say she had to leave Bishop because she had to work?

NJ: Yes, because she had to go back and help her mother.

DL: What was she studying at Bishop?

NJ: I think she went -- had a mind to be a missionary, I do believe. She just never told us very much about it.

DL: When she left school and started work, what kinds of things was she doing?

NJ: Just did housework. That's about all they were allowed to do.

DL: Was this in Albuquerque?

NJ: No, no. This was in Texas. Then my uncle decided he had to get his mother and his sister out of Texas. And so he went to Albuquerque and established a residence there and brought them out to Albuquerque.

DL: What did your mother do in Albuquerque? Did she get a job there?

NJ: No, she had just domestic work. She wasn't trained for anything else.

DL: How far did she go in school? Did she complete two years?

NJ: Oh, I don't know. She never talked very much about it, you know, how far she went in school. But it wasn't too far. And she could read and write very well.

DL: Was Bishop a college at that point?

NJ: Yes it was.

DL: You said that she didn't talk much about it but did you ever sense that she regretted not finishing her education?

NJ: Oh, definitely. Because she insisted on us, as we grew up, to get all that we could out of schooling.

DL: Where did your mother meet your father?

NJ: He was running on the road, as they called it. And he passed through Albuquerque and -- I don't know how he met her really.

DL: What does 'running on the road' mean?

NJ: Well, like a porter.

DL: On the trains?

NJ: Yes.

DL: Did they know each other for a while and then settle in Albuquerque?

NJ: No. Oh no. He didn't settle there.

DL: When did they marry?

NJ: Well, I don't know how they met. She never said. But they met and she ended up coming out here to get married.

DL: He was from California?

NJ: Well, yes. He was born in California --

MJ: Uh, Uh.

NJ: Wasn't he?

MJ: He was born in Columbus, Ohio.

NJ: Oh yeah. That's right, that's right. I did tell you that. Mother always told us he was born in Columbus.

DL: He was living in California though?

NJ: Yes. His mother and father were living here. In San Francisco.

DL: So they got married and your mother moved out here with him?

NJ: No, my mother moved to California to marry my father.

DL: Did he continue to work on the trains?

NJ: No, he became a red cap. And that's what he did for a living.

DL: Living in San Francisco?

NJ: In San Francisco.

DL: Was it the Southern Pacific?

NJ: No, no. The Santa Fe.

DL: Did your mother go to work once she moved here after marrying?

NJ: No, because I was born quite early. Yeah, I was born in 1904, and of course she couldn't work. She had been offered a job at the old -- it was the Emporium. It still is the Emporium. She was offered a job, if she could speak Spanish, because she was quite fair. Of course, she refused that because she said she was a Negro, or Black, whatever you want to call it. And she said she wouldn't say that she was anything else but that. So she refused the job, and later I was born.

DL: How much later was the next child born?

NJ: A year and five months. My sister Tabytha was born.

DL: During the time when the children were being born your mother was not working, she was taking care of the children?

NJ: She always just stayed at home with us. That, my father insisted upon. And we were both born before the Earthquake and Fire (1906). We lived down south of Market, but at that time it was a nice residential section. I don't know how nice it was, but I mean it wasn't like it is now, considered sort of, you know -- you just don't live down there.

DL: You were about two years old when the Earthquake came, but did your mother and father tell you anything about what happened to the family?

NJ: Well, my grandfather had died and his wife (not Mrs. Johnson's grandmother) died quite a bit before he did.

DL: Your grandfather died during the Quake?

NJ: No, no. Shortly before. And my grandfather -- Mother used to tell me about how he would pick me up -- I would insist upon not walking but I wanted him to carry me, and she would say, the poor fellow was so, you know, not feeble but, yet he would pick me up and carry me because I wanted to be carried. Now what do I want to say?

DL: About the Earthquake.

NJ: Oh yeah, about the Earthquake and Fire. My uncle, my father's brother, rushed as fast as he could come down to where we were living and she said he took us down to the Ferry Building and we waited down there until my father came back from across the Bay. So we went from there over to Oakland and my father got this lady that we knew for years to keep us until he could come back from his job.

DL: What about your grandparents? Did they live in San Francisco during the Quake?

NJ: No. They were both dead before the Quake.

DL: And your father's brothers -- were they living in San Francisco?

NJ: Yes. Both of the brothers lived over here. He had two brothers and they both lived here. But mother never said where this other brother lived. His name was Garland. I don't know where he lived. But this was my Uncle Jess. He took us down to the Ferry Building.

DL: Was your house destroyed?

NJ: Oh yes. Definitely.

DL: And once your father was able to come and get you, where did you live?

NJ: He took us across the Bay to Oakland, and this friend of ours, we called her Aunt Josie (Dandridge), she kept us until my (father) could get us. And then (my mother) took us to Albuquerque where we stayed for a while.

DL: A couple of years or just a few months?

NJ: A couple of years or more, I don't know how long we stayed there.

DL: Were any of the children born in Albuquerque?

NJ: No. No, none of us were born in that city. We came back to Richmond and my sister Hester was born in Richmond, California.

DL: How long did your family stay in Richmond?

NJ: Not too long, because we moved over here -- right next door, and my sister Mary was born here.

DL: What was the neighborhood like?

NJ: Well, this was a nice neighborhood. And the streets were not paved. There was no sidewalk. And we saw -- the old Laurel Hill Cemetery was there and that's where my grandmother, my father's mother, was buried, in Laurel Hill Cemetery. Of course she died years -- oh, I don't know how long before the Earthquake she died.

DL: The Laurel Hill Cemetery brings to mind Mammy Pleasant. Did you hear stories about her when you were growing up?

NJ: My father, when he was a boy, he said he saw her one time. And he said it was very true, the fact that she had one eye, I think it was blue. They weren't the same color. I don't remember what he said the other one was.

DL: What was your house like? The house that you lived in, do you remember?

NJ: Oh, it was all gas, no electricity. Oh, I just -- it was a wonderful childhood I had. I don't remember all the things. I remember the old cemetery.

DL: Were there a lot of people in the area?

NJ: Oh yes. Across the street, before they built this school, there were one, two, three families. But they were wide lots. And some of them -- I can see those little houses now. Then, there was a family directly across the street. And, from here -- because we didn't live here all the time. We moved from here down to Pine Street. From next door down to Pine Street. And then, after a while my mother and father bought this place and we moved here to this house.

DL: How old were you when they bought this place?

NJ: Oh, I was going to Old Roosevelt School.

DL: That's high school?

NJ: Oh no. Old Roosevelt School was six blocks over. It was an old wooden structure. Now it's all brick.

DL: But what grades was that school?

NJ: From one to six.

DL: So you were quite young when they bought the house?

NJ: Oh yes.

DL: Was it already built or did they buy the land and build a house?

NJ: No. This place, Lord I don't know how old it is, it's so old. I would judge it around eighty years old. But it didn't have any electricity then, just like the other place. It was all gas.

DL: Was this the first home that your parents owned?

NJ: That's right.

DL: Had your father's parents owned their home?

NJ: No, no. My father's parents, they didn't own their place, did they?

MJ: No.

NJ: She's (referring to her daughter, Maryanne) been doing research on the family.

DL: What kinds of things did your mother like to do aside from housework? Did she have any interests?

NJ: Naturally, church. At an early age, I remember when she used to bring us over from Richmond, my mother and father both, I remember they carried their insurance papers along with them in a little satchel because she was afraid that in a catastrophe they would be destroyed. So we would have to cart that along and we would come from Richmond over here to church, to Third Baptist Church. And it was up on the hill at Hyde and Clay Streets. That was the old church. And that was right after the Earthquake and Fire. It was built by this Reverend Kelly. He was the minister.

DL: Did she just come for Sunday services or was she involved in other church activities?

NJ: No, no. Not till we were fairly grown did she involve herself in actual working. She just loved church, that's all. And she'd been brought up by her mother (who) was a very active church worker. She formed the first colored Baptist church in New Mexico, in Albuquerque (Mount Olive Baptist Church). Because at that time none of the churches were integrated. So it was either they'd worship (at home) or they just didn't have any place to go.

DL: You said that your mother got involved in the church once the children got grown.

NJ: That's right.

DL: So that would be around when everybody had gone off to school?

NJ: No, no. None of us went off to school.

DL: How were you educated?

NJ: I went to the High School of Commerce. I went to Roosevelt, graduated. Then I went to the High School of Commerce. All the girls went to high school but I'm the only one that didn't get to go to college because my father died when he was only twenty-nine years old, thirty-nine rather. Thirty-nine. And I had to get out and work.

DL: How old were you?

NJ: I had graduated high school. I was nineteen. Because I had to stay away from school for a year because I had something wrong with my heart at the time, and I had to stay out of school. I had to rest and all that sort of thing. Therefore, I graduated when I was nineteen years old. And my father, he came to my graduation and he died shortly after. So I didn't get to go to college. But my sisters, now, Tabytha graduated from Lowell High School, and Lowell at the time was at Masonic and Hayes.

DL: You indicated before that your mother was very concerned about the girls' education and she always encouraged you.

NJ: Yes.

DL: What kinds of things was she saying to you so that you ...

NJ: She told us always that we could do anything we had the education to do. She never put us down and said because of your color you can't do this or you can't do the other. As I said, Tabytha graduated from Lowell, then she went to U.C., and then she decided she wanted to take up law. She went to Hastings Law School. And because she had always gone to White schools, she had this urge to go somewhere where she could meet up with some of her own people. So she went to Howard University and graduated from there, and there's her diploma up there [pointing to wall].

DL: She got her law degree from Hastings or Howard?

NJ: Really, the end of it was at Howard.

DL: Did she get a scholarship to go to U.C.?

NJ: No. The church paid her tuition. At that time it was only twenty-five dollars, believe it or not.

DL: And what about her other expenses, did she work to deal with that.

NJ: No, I was working, and between Mother and I she had enough. And she did without a lot of things.

DL: What made your sister decide to go into law?

NJ: I don't know, she just loved to argue. We would have the biggest arguments, and she would always win because I gave in. I never liked to argue. And she always took the opposite side. She'd say a lot of times, "Well, I didn't believe what I was saying".

DL: And the experiences she had at U.C., did she ever discuss them with you?

NJ: She never had any trouble at all.

DL: No academic or social...

NJ: No.

DL: And at Hastings.

NJ: Nothing.

DL: No problems?

NJ: No.

DL: People didn't react negatively to her because she was Black and a woman?

NJ: No.

DL: What about Howard. This was the first time that she had left home?

NJ: Yes.

DL: How was that for her? The experience of being in Washington D.C.?

NJ: Oh well, she really enjoyed being away. In fact, she stayed with a very wonderful family there. She had met this daughter of the Peters family. She met her through some friends of ours that lived across the Bay. And she lived at their house and they were wonderful people. So she had no problems.

DL: After she graduated did she immediately come back to San Francisco?

NJ: Yes, she did.

DL: I wanted to ask you about your other sisters now. Did they also go to Lowell?

NJ: (Yes). Hester went to Lowell. She graduated from Lowell. And Mary went to Lowell and graduated.

DL: Did they go on to college?

NJ: Hester went to San Francisco State Teachers' College.

DL: Hester you said went to State?

NJ: After a period of time she went to State College.

DL: Well, what did she do before she went to State?

NJ: Well, she did some housework. Because at that time our people weren't working in any stores. She did housework, and then she finally went on to State. She wanted to work with children.

DL: How old was she when she finally got to go to college?

NJ: I think she was in her thirties. As Mary (Mrs. Johnson's daughter) said, she graduated when she was sixteen from Lowell. She wasn't sure what she wanted to do. She had a photographic (memory) and she sort of really slid through school. She was really a very brilliant girl. Professor Termann of Stanford University (Department of Psychology, Study of Gifted Group) at that time was sponsoring a program for gifted children and she tested very, very high. He was trying to get a certain number which he hit on a thousand -- of the brightest children in California, in all the state. And she was one of the one thousand.

DL: Did she get a scholarship, I mean did they...

NJ: No. None of my sisters got a scholarship to anything. They just worked and got their education on their own.

END TAPE 1:5:1

BEGIN TAPE 1:5:2

DL: Now what about your sister Mary? You said she graduated from Lowell.

NJ: Are you finished with Hester?

DL: Yes. We'll get back to Hester later.

NJ: Mary graduated from Lowell.

DL: Did she go to college right away?

NJ: Yes, she did. She always wanted to be a nurse. She was determined she was going to, as I say, be a nurse. She decided she wanted to go out to U.C. Hospital. So, she went out there, and she was the first black nurse to ever go, well the first black nurse, that's all. And, at first she was not allowed to stay in the nurses' home, which was across the street from the hospital. She had to come home every night. They accepted her after a long -- I don't know, it wasn't right away they accepted her. She had just a little trouble there. Anyhow, she went and then she had to come home every night. And then, I think it was about two or three days later, they phoned or sent word over to the hospital that she could have a place on the seventh floor. I'll never forget. That was her room at the nurses' home. She made quite a few friends. It was no problem with them (the other students) at all. She was accepted.

DL: It was the administration of the school.

NJ: Yes.

DL: Was this right after high school that she...

NJ: Right after high school. So then, she went there and graduated from U.C.'s nursing school. And Mary (Mrs. Johnson's daughter) was a little baby then. We went out to her graduation (but) at first I was afraid to take her because it was so windy and cold.

DL: You're talking about your child Mary.

NJ: My child Mary was just a little baby.

DL: Do you know what year this was that your sister graduated.

NJ: Yes, it was in 19... thirty-two, wasn't it, that she graduated? (questioning her daughter Mary).

DL: Did the whole family, your other sisters (did they go to the ceremony?).

NJ: No. Tabytha had died. She died in 1935.

MJ: Oh well, then she was...

DL: Was she still at Howard?

NJ: No. I don't remember where she was. Hester I know was...

DL: To get back to Hester, why didn't Hester go to college right away?

NJ: Well, because she graduated so early, you know, when she was sixteen. She was not quite -- well anyhow, it was a period of time that she waited. When she did go to State she had to, naturally, work because Mother didn't have the

NJ: money to send her. She worked and would get off from work and go on out to State. You know State was over on Buchanan. She would leave her job, at that time she was working on the MUNI. She was the first black woman to get a job with the Municipal Railway.

DL: What was she doing with them?

NJ: She was a conductorette.

DL: I'd like to go back to your parents now. I had asked you how your mother felt about your education. How did your father feel?

NJ: Well my father died, as I said, in 193... 1923. Yes. He died in 1923. I was thinking of his age. He was only thirty-nine years old. But he was certainly for education too, because he didn't get to go to high school and all that sort of thing. He certainly wanted us to make it at least through high school. But he hadn't anticipated the fact that the rest of them would go on to college.

DL: Did your father work on the railroad all through his life?

NJ: No. He worked on the trains when my mother met him but after that he was a redcap and he was a redcap when he died. But he wanted us to be better than that.

DL: As a redcap was he making enough money to support a family of four daughters, six people? That was the only income coming in at that time?

NJ: Yes. Mother wasn't -- he didn't want her to work, because he wanted her to stay home and raise us.

DL: And with that income he bought the house, right?

NJ: Well, at that time property wasn't as high. As I remember, Mother said they got this old place for $2,900 or something like that. As compared to what property is selling for now, no, we couldn't have bought it. Or even years later than that he couldn't have bought it.

DL: Had he paid for it at the time he died?

NJ: No, no. Mother hadn't finished. When he died she was still paying on it. And between Mother and I she got enough together to make the payments. They were very, very small. I forget how much she had to pay.

DL: So after your father died your mother also went to work.

NJ: Yes.

DL: Where did she work?

NJ: Housework. That's all she knew to do.

DL: And when you went to work, did you go into housework?

NJ: Yep, because that's all there was. I couldn't have gone downtown and gotten a job in the stores.

DL: Who were you working for? Did you have to go far away from the neighborhood to find jobs?

NJ: No. My first job was on Hyde Street.

DL: Were these wealthy people that you were working for?

NJ: Yes, always were wealthy.

DL: And I assume White.

NJ: Oh yes. Naturally.

DL: You mentioned about the insurance, that your mother was always carrying her insurance papers. Did she get any money when your father died from the insurance to help the family?

NJ: A little bit. At that time they didn't have -- companies weren't made to have pensions and all that sort of thing. So there was no, nothing like that. I think they settled with Mother for, I think, five hundred dollars. Which is nothing compared to what people are getting now for insurance and pensions and all that. And that's all she got.

DL: When you girls were growing up, did your parents read Black newspapers, either national or local?

NJ: Well, yes.

DL: Do you remember any of them?

NJ: Oh, I remember the Chicago Defender, the Pittsburgh Courier. Oh yes, always we were exposed to the Crisis, the NAACP. My father wrote for the Western Outlook. It was published in Oakland.

DL: What kind of articles did he write?

NJ: Oh, news articles about what was happening over in San Francisco.

DL: Did you keep any?

NJ: I think, yes. My mother was a collector of all the news items. All the things I've given, showed Katherine (Flippin), were clippings that my mother kept. We have them upstairs now. I won't let them out of my sight. Katherine,

NJ: she has some of them in the (scrap) book over there. But I wouldn't let them out of my sight.

DL: How long did your father write for the Western Outlook?

NJ: Well, I really don't know. I don't know whether that paper... I'm sure it's not being published now. Because I don't know when he became interested in the lodge and whatnot. When he died he was grandmaster of the Oddfellows. That's what he always wanted to be.

DL: How did he get interested in the Oddfellows?

NJ: In the Outlook?

DL: No. In the Oddfellows.

NJ: In the Oddfellows? I really don't know. I know he tried, well, he did succeed in getting my mother to join the Household of Ruth, I think it was called.

DL: That's the sister organization?

NJ: Yeah, and that was not Mother's interest at all. She just joined to please him. And after he died she didn't bother with it any more. I don't know if that lodge is in existence any more, is it?

DL: How much time did this consume for your father -- his activities with the Oddfellows? Was it a couple of days a week?

NJ: Oh no. It was just, it couldn't have been a couple of days a week, because, for one thing, he had to work. Well, he just had push, some kind of incentive to belong and do things.

DL: You said this wasn't your mother's interest, the Household of Ruth. Aside from the church, did she have any other activities?

NJ: No. She used to go around to see sick people, and anybody in need she would go help them. I know she was quite interested in a family that was down in the project here. And she would go -- she and another woman -- and clean up. But that was after she wasn't working any more.

DL: But during your father's lifetime...

NJ: No, well she didn't work. No, during his lifetime, the house, church. We came first.

DL: Since your mother didn't work, did the girls have any household responsibilities?

NJ: Oh yes. We always did.

DL: What kinds of things did you have to do?

NJ: Well, we, each one of us -- she tried to see that each one of us had a room, or maybe not a room, but each one of us had a separate bed. And we would once a week have to clean up our room, pick up. And maybe, if we weren't too messy, as she called us, we would be allowed to help her. We always wanted to do cooking. She taught us how to cook. Whatever food we had we learned how to fix it. In case she wasn't very well or something.

Every year my father sent us back to Albuquerque to stay with our grandmother.

DL: For the summer?

NJ: Yes, for the summer. She'd take us, naturally, and we really had a lot of fun and a good time. She always would get (someone in to) cook (for my father) a whole lot of food or something.

DL: Would your mother stay in Albuquerque for the summer?

NJ: Yes. Oh sure, sure. She never left us.

DL: And your father, would he come out?

NJ: No, no. He stayed here. He had to stay here on the job. He was allowed a pass for the family and that's how we got back and forth.

DL: How many rooms were there in the (house next door)? You were raised in the house (next door)?

NJ: No, no. We were raised, for a while we were over there and then (we moved here). Then, as I say, we moved down to Pine Street. And my sister Mary and Hester were going to Emerson School. It's still there.

DL: How old were you when they got this house? Were you quite grown?

NJ: No. I was in high school.

DL: Because you mentioned that your mother tried to have each of you have your own bed.

NJ: Yes.

DL: That was in this house, or always, in all the houses that you lived in?

NJ: In all the houses we each had our own bed.

DL: And household responsibilities.

NJ: Yes, that's right.

DL: I'm jumping again. I had asked you before about reading Black newspapers and publications. Did the family sit around and discuss the kinds of things that you were reading?

NJ: No.

DL: Did your folks sit around and do that?

NJ: Oh, they might, my mother and father might be discussing. But things that they felt weren't good for us to be reading we never read.

DL: What would that be?

NJ: Well, the Black newspapers that had to do with lynching and all that sort of thing. She would kind of gloss over it. We wouldn't sit down and read details like kids are allowed to do now.

DL: What about Marcus Garvey and the Universal Negro Improvement Association in New York. Was that discussed much out here?

NJ: Oh yes. Once in a while they talked about it. That was all just temporary.

DL: As you and your sisters were growing up, did you belong to any organizations? Political organizations, community organizations, clubs?

NJ: We never... None of us, except my sister Tabytha. She belonged to a sorority when she was over at Cal. That was Delta Sigma Theta. But she was the only one that belonged to anything, sororities or anything. Hester and Mary never bothered with it.

DL: And your father, did he get into political organizations?

NJ: No.

DL: I'd like to talk about your sister Tabytha. After she graduated from Howard and she came back here, did she begin to look for a job?

NJ: No. She began to study for the bar. And she made it.

DL: What year was this?

NJ: I don't remember the year. Isn't that awful? Oh, she passed the bar (I think sometime in the early '30s. We have a certificate that certifies Tabytha's active membership with the State Bar, dated 12/31/35.)

DL: How long did it take her to study for the bar examination? Had she been studying for a year or less?

NJ: It was less than a year... She never had to do too much studying. Neither did my sister Hester.

DL: After she passed the bar did she find employment?

NJ: Yes. She had her first case. She worked out of the house. She had the cards printed and all. And she had her very first case and won it.

DL: What kind of case was it, criminal or...

NJ: No, no. I don't think she would have gone into criminal law. No, this was a case of a woman who had gone into this dress shop. It was on Geary Street near Stockton. And she had been refused service. So she came to Tabytha and Tabytha said she'd take it. And she did, and she won. That was the first and only case she had because she died shortly after.

DL: Was your sister involved in any activity, any organizations during this period?

NJ: Oh yes. She had organized at the church. She organized a literary society, she called it. And we performed plays and what not.

DL: You were involved in that too? You were acting?

NJ: Oh yes. I was an actress. (Laughs.)

DL: What about Hester? I mean Mary. Was she also?

NJ: No. No, (Mary) was too full of mischief. Hester did readings and what not. Comical readings. She was very good at accents, I don't care what kind. She could mimic any person.

DL: Since Tabytha was (a lawyer), and the NAACP during the thirties was quite active, was she involved with the NAACP?

NJ: (Yes).

DL: Was she involved in any other organizations? Did she have any memberships in political or community organizations?

NJ: No, no. Just the NAACP.

DL: How did she get involved with them?

NJ: Well, she was just always interested in what happened to our people and what was done. We didn't really have an NAACP over here (in San Francisco). We always had to go to Oakland. And so someone, I don't know who it was that organized it. Oh, I think it was Reverend Byers, the one that helped organize the branch over here.

DL: This was in the twenties or the thirties?

NJ: (It was in the 1920's).

DL: Was Tabytha a member of the NAACP while she was going to U.C.? Or to Hastings?

NJ: No, no.

DL: So that happened after she came back from Howard?

NJ: Oh yes.

DL: What kinds of things did she do with the NAACP?

NJ: She spearheaded the group that, this particular time, picketed the Emporium because they refused to hire Black people even in the restrooms.

DL: Did you participate with her in any of those things?

NJ: No, no.

DL: What about your mother or your sisters?

NJ: No, my mother didn't.

..... END TAPE

BEGIN TAPE 2:5:1

DL: I would like to start by asking where you and your sisters socialized as youngsters and teenagers?

NJ: Well, our social life really was connected with the Church. We met our friends, the kids that went to Sunday school, up there. That was mainly our social life because when we moved out here, why, there weren't any Blacks to associate with. There were all Whites -- Italians particularly -- and they were our friends too. We had some very, very good relationships with all the people, no matter who. Mother taught us that we weren't any better or any worse than anybody else. We could make it on our own. Our main source of companionship, as I said, was with the kids that we met at Third Baptist.

DL: What kinds of things did you do? Did you have dances or picnics?

NJ: Well, we had picnics once in a while. We didn't do anything much. We didn't ever seem to require a whole lot of entertainment. There was no television or radio or anything like that and we just made our own fun. We had coasters and things we played on.

DL: What are coasters?

NJ: My uncle gave us an old wagon and then when it kind of went to pieces my sisters managed to make some kind of coaster out of it. That was something that we got around in. And we had skates and like that.

DL: Did you go to the Church and to Sunday school and after that was over you'd play with your friends?

NJ: Yeah, or maybe they'd come out to our house and we'd play. We didn't have to have all the entertainment that the kids have now. We just made our own fun.

DL: Did you or your sisters ever belong to the Booker T. Washington Community Center?

NJ: No, because at that time they didn't have it. There was no Booker T. Washington Center. The first one that we had was up on Divisadero Street. And since then they've moved over on Presidio Avenue. But we didn't have community centers.

DL: As you grew older, when you were young women, teenagers around fifteen or seventeen, did your mother allow you to bring your friends home?

NJ: Oh yes, all the time. We were always having kids come home.

DL: What kinds of things did you do in the house?

NJ: Oh, I don't know. Really, I don't remember. It's been so long ago. Our main fun was hide and go seek, we'd always get out in the street and we'd play with the kids hide and go seek and "one foot off the gutter" and all that sort of thing. And have tug of war. Of course, everyone wanted Tabytha on their side because she was so strong.

DL: Did the Church sponsor any youth activities, at any time, as you were growing up?

NJ: No.

DL: And the literary society that Tabytha formed, was that after she graduated from college?

NJ: Oh no, heavens no. That was when she was just a teenager.

DL: Was it for everbody in the church or just the young people?

NJ: Just the young people.

DL: What kinds of things did you do?

NJ: We used to give plays and I remember my first boyfriend was one of the follows that was in one of the plays. I don't know how many kids were involved. Around twenty or thirty young people would meet up there.

DL: And put on plays.

NJ: Yes, that's right.

DL: You and your sisters always attended the Third Baptist Church?

NJ: That's right, that's right.

DL: Was this something that your mother required of you girls?

NJ: No, she always would take us to church even when we lived over in Richmond. I remember she and my father would bring us to church. We didn't exactly know what it was all about but we soon learned, because we attended Sunday School up (at Third Baptist). They had a very fine Sunday School. Through that relationship we were taught so many fine and wonderful things. We were always taught that we -- Mother had to tell us that we -- we didn't know that we were different from anybody else. We thought we were -- well, for a good example, one time we were coming home from the old Roosevelt School down, well it's in the same place that it is now, but it was an old wooden building, and we were on our way home. We had to come home every noon time for lunch, then we'd go back and then come home. We'd have arguments and what not -- in fact my sister Tabytha always had a fight, I don't care what it was. Nobody seemed to bother me but she'd always have to fight somebody. And one time I came home and I said, "Oh Mother, a big Black man..." They were digging up old cable car tracks and this colored man was leading a horse and he came along and these Italian kids said, "Oh, you better hurry. Oooooh, he's gonna get us. We better hurry up because he'll catch us." So I lit out with the rest of them, running. And I told Mother about it, I said, "A big Black man, he came and we had to run." And so Mother says, "Did you look at your father?" And I said, "Yes, why?" She said, "He's dark." And I said, "Oh." And she went on to tell me, she said, " He was just a Black man the same as your father, so why would you have to run from him." And that's the first time that I realized that I was different from anybody else.

DL: And you were in elementary school at that time?

NJ: Yeah, elementary. So that's how it was in those days. We just didn't realize we were Black or Colored or whatever. Somethimes I wonder if maybe that wasn't good. I don't know.

DL: If it was good not to know?

NJ: Yes.

DL: How did you feel about church, having to attend church on Sundays, as you got older? How did you feel about religion?

NJ: Well, I'll tell you, I was baptized up at old Third Baptist at Clay and Hyde Street when I was twelve years old.

DL: Who was the reverend then?

NJ: It was Reverend J. M. Ryddle. He was a very highly educated man. There was no revival, no hoop-de-doo about it, you know how revivals get to be. I don't know, I just seemed to, I felt like I wanted to join the church and he baptized me. Incidentally, my father was the first person to be baptized in that particular pool at that time. He belonged to the Methodist church and Mother would never go -- well, she'd go sometimes but she was raised a Baptist and he said, "Sweets will never belong to my church so I'll just join hers." So he was baptized up at...

DL: Where was the pool at?

NJ: It was in the church. It was after the Earthquake and Fire. They had built -- Reverend Kelly was the minister there that built, I mean got the grants from the Northern Baptist Convention. He got a loan from them and had (Third Baptist) Church built. It really is a beautiful church inside, beautiful.

DL: He had it built after the Earthquake?

NJ: After the Earthquake and Fire. They were originally down on Powell Street between Sutter and Bush, on Powell Street and they sold the property down there and built this church from the ground up. Quite lovely.

DL: So Reverend Kelly and Reverend Ryddle were co-pastors?

NJ: No, no. Reverend Kelly didn't stay there too long. He went to, I think Birmingham. And then Reverend Ryddle was the pastor at the time I joined. And we had picnics and we had a lot of things going.

DL: What was the difference after you joined the church by being baptized, what kinds of things did you do after that?

NJ: Oh, nothing. I was too young to sing in the choir then. We just continued to go to church and, as I said, kids would come out here to our house. Once in a while Mother would let us go to their house. She wasn't too keen on that sort of thing.

DL: Did you ever join the choir?

NJ: Years later I joined the Third Baptist choir and I sang in it and I was told that I had a very fine voice, I don't know. Then, after a long period of time, I finally went over to Fellowship Church. I used to sing in the choir then that Corinne Barrow Williams organized.

DL: When did you leave the Baptist Church for the Fellowship Church?

NJ: Well, after all these various ministers we had. Then Reverend (Frederick Douglass) Haynes was called to the Baptist church. We liked him as a person but he started -- we'd always had a very quiet service and we had never been used to all this emotional stuff. So I went over to Fellowship. Mr. and Mrs. Clifton (Emile and Cardella) told me about this church. They had joined. In fact they were charter members of Fellowship Church.

DL: Had they been Baptists previously?

NJ: Yes. They'd all been Baptists.

DL: At the Third Baptist Church?

NJ: Yes. (Mrs. Clifton) said, "Well, come on over to Fellowship." I went over one Sunday and I've never been back to the Baptist church. I mean I've gone back when my mother -- in fact when she was hospitalized and wasn't able to walk because she'd fallen and broken her hip -- why I used to go up to Third Baptist once in a while with her. But I mean I never went back to join.

DL: When was this that you left? Was this in the forties or the fifties?

NJ: Oh, I don't know. I can't recall. I think Fellowship was organized in 1944 and it was shortly after they had organized I went over there. Because I wanted my daughter -- to learn to like church, or enjoy church. And she didn't at old Third Baptist because of the yelling and emotionalism. And so after Sunday School she would always want to go home. So that's when Mr. and Mrs. Clifton told me about Fellowship and I went over there. And they had just a quiet, very good service. Particularly after Dr. Thurman came. He and Dr. Fisk were co-pastors of Fellowship.

DL: What is Dr. Fisk's first name, do you remember?

NJ: Alfred Fisk. He's dead now but he was a very remarkable man. He was a professor of philosophy out at (San Francisco State College). And, incidentally, a Presbyterian minister. He always said he felt that there should be an inter-racial church. And in fact we are the first inter-racial, inter-denominational church in the whole country.

DL: And that's the basic philosophy at Fellowship -- the fact that it's inter-racial and inter-denominational?

NJ: That's right. And, one of our very faithful members was an Agnostic. But she was a faithful member, she was there all the time. Even now, I don't look down on anybody because they don't believe the way I do or have any doubts about religion and all that sort of thing.

DL: Religion seems to be very important to you. In what way?

NJ: It's important but not to the point of... I believe in treating a person -- as Dr. Thurman always said -- where he is as if he were where he ought to be. So what does it matter, you know, they're human beings. And whether you are Baptist, Catholic, no matter what you are you're still a human being.

DL: You said that you wanted Mary to like religion.

NJ: I wanted her to enjoy it.

DL: What exactly did you mean by that?

NJ: Well, just accept it and take it. Oh, she's very knowledgeable in how people... Your relationship to people should be the basis of... Oh gosh, I can't explain it but I wanted her to really enjoy it and I feel that she does.

DL: I think you explained it. Could you give me your impression of Dr. Thurman?

NJ: He is a remarkable person. He can just hold us spellbound. And I do know that whenever he speaks you had better listen. There were times in the Baptist church when I would sit and maybe get to thinking about what I was going to have for dinner, where I was going the next day and all that sort of thing, but when (Dr. Thurman) speaks, you had better listen or you're going to miss more than half of what he's saying.

DL: Going back to Reverend Haynes, did he become the minister as the Black people started moving into the city during World War II? Was he the minister at that time?

NJ: No. We had one little man, he was a very, very lovable person. He and his wife. Reverend Dennis. And then -- wait a minute -- Reverend Wilson was the minister at the church when Ed and I married and he performed the ceremony right here in this house, in this very room. Many people thought I, being the oldest and the first to get married, that I should have had a church wedding, but I didn't want a church wedding because I knew that my mother was the sole support. She and I got the other girls out of high school. So why should I have a big wedding?

So we got married right here in this room. And my sister Tabytha stood up with us. Simple things. I don't care for all the fancy things.

DL: But going back to Reverend Haynes, the question was, had he been made minister about the same time that the majority of Black people started moving in to San Francisco? Is that why the church changed, you think?

NJ: I don't know. I've often wondered. I've thought about that a lot. I really don't know. I think that contributed to it.

DL: Because most of those people were coming from the South.

NJ: That's right. And that's the type of thing that they were used to. Whereas before, it was just the same old crowd. As a matter of fact, I think that there were only about six or eight thousand Blacks.

DL: Not even that many.

NJ: Maybe not. That originally were here.

DL: The census says before 1940 there were about four thousand.

NJ: Really. I didn't know that. I was just guessing because I really didn't know.

DL: Now, you were the only one of your sisters that didn't go to college.

NJ: That's right.

DL: Had you wanted to go to college?

NJ: As a matter of fact, I don't think I did, really. I wasn't thinking too much about college. I wanted to be an interior decorator or a seamstress.

DL: Did you sew?

NJ: Yeah.

DL: Did you make your clothes and many other things?

NJ: Yes I did. I could never make my sister Tabytha's clothes. But I used to make things. And then I wanted to... But I never had any lessons in sewing at all.

DL: When you went to Commerce High School, were there other Negro girls there?

NJ: There was only one.

DL: Do you remember her name?

NJ: Yes. She was my very, very dear friend. Her name was Ira Graves. And then later there was Mary Thompson.

DL: She was another Negro girl?

NJ: Yes. But Ira was there first. She was a little bit older than I when I went there. In fact she wrote something for our school journal. I think I have it upstairs now.

DL: Were you friendly with any of the other girls in school or were you and Ira each other's only companion?

NJ: Oh no. We didn't even bother with each other.

DL: Because she was ahead of you in school?

NJ: She wasn't that far ahead of me but she had a circle of friends. I had a circle of friends. So consequently, we didn't bother (with each other).

DL: This circle of friends, they were White?

NJ: Yes. They were all White.

DL: Was this a girls school?

NJ: No. It was for boys and girls.

DL: Did you socialize with your friends after school?

NJ: Sometimes.

DL: What kinds of things did you do?

NJ: I don't remember. Well, one thing, I had to go by streetcar and transfer to Van Ness and then get off at Van Ness and Fell Streets. That's where the school was. And consequently all of us went to various parts of town. Because in high school you didn't go to your neighborhood school.

DL: Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities?

NJ: No. I didn't go in for sports. My sister Mary did. She received her block "L". She went to Lowell and received her block "L". I remember Hester didn't participate in any sports.

DL: No clubs either?

NJ: We weren't allowed to have clubs.

DL: In the school you weren't.

NJ: No.

END TAPE 2:5:1

BEGIN TAPE 2:5:2

DL: What was the commercial course that you took?

NJ: Typing, bookkeeping, shorthand, which I detested. Because I never wanted to go to that school.

DL: Where did you want to go?

NJ: I wanted to go to Polytechnic. At that time Polytechnic -- I don't think it was where it is now -- they had sewing or dressmaking there and that's what I wanted to do. But Commerce, uh-uh. A very wonderful teacher I had there, I had her for bookkeeping, was the one responsible for my having to go there. Her mother and father lived up the country from San Francisco and she used to see my father down at the Ferry Building. And she talked him into sending me to Commerce. She's responsible for my going there.

DL: You weren't happy in the course, then?

NJ: I hated bookkeeping (laughs). But typing I enjoyed because to me it was like the piano. But bookkeeping and shorthand I detested.

DL: Did you think that after you finished school, after you graduated, that you would get a job using these skills?

NJ: No, because we weren't... The only way you could get a job would be to take a civil service exam for -- was that for the city? No, no. The state. And this Mary Thompson, that's what she did. But before she could take the exam she had to go to Heald's Business College and take -- I don't know what kind of course, whether it was a refresher course or what. And she took the state exam and got a job. She worked for the state for years. But there weren't any jobs to be had.

DL: Had you thought to take the state examinations for civil service at any point?

NJ: No. To tell you the truth I didn't want to. Really I didn't. Because that wasn't what I wanted to do. And quite a while after, my father recognized the fact that I didn't care for the commercial work. Then he said I could go where I wanted to. But I had put in almost two years and I didn't feel that it would be sensible to get out and start in another school. So I said, "Well no, I'll go on and finish with it". Which really served me very well because (years later) after my daughter got to be some size and was in junior high, I took a job. I worked in the school department (as a clerk, and as far as I know, I became the first Black woman to work in this capacity). And if I hadn't had the typing experience and really kept up with it, I didn't mind typing all, then I wouldn't have been able to fill the job.

DL: But when you finished school what kind of job did you get?

NJ: Well, see my father died when he was thirty-nine years old and that was in 1923 he died. So I had to go to work doing housework, in order to help Mother.

DL: Were you able to graduate from school?

NJ: Oh yes, I graduated. He saw me graduate. He died in November and I graduated in June.

DL: So you started working as a domestic?

NJ: That's right. And I didn't... It was all right, I didn't mind it. Because I wanted to help Mother get the other girls out.

DL: Did you work for a lot of people or just one or two employers?

NJ: No. I only had three different jobs. One was with a very, very wealthy woman. She had a summer home down in -- now I forget -- well, anyhow, she had a summer home down the Peninsula and I had to wait on table when she had her various friends down to this place. She wanted to help me with my singing and every time she entertained, she would tell me, "Now, Naomi, such and such a time, when such and such is being served, please go in and I want them to hear you sing." So, that did something for me, to be able to do that. Then I had, as I said, three different jobs. The last job I had...

DL: You just worked for one family at a time? You worked for this lady five days a week?

NJ: No, no. I quit that because I didn't like that country place.

DL: Did you have to live in?

NJ: Yes. Because I couldn't go back and forth down to that country. So I wanted to come up and Mother told me, she says, "Come on 'Na' (nickname), we'll manage." And so, it wasn't too long after I came back here I got a job over on Hyde Street, and this woman was instrumental in getting me placed with a singing teacher. And she gave me lessons for nothing, in exchange for work.

DL: What did you do with your singing? Did you ever perform?

NJ: Well, I used to, as I say, I was in a choral society group. But Mrs. Ethel Clark, and incidentally, she's dead now, but she was the executive secretary down at Booker T. Washington Center and she had the choral club. She was interested in music and performing. So she -- oh, there was a huge group, men and women and what not. No young kids though. We used to perform quite often. We had a concert down at the Scottish Rite Temple. The one that used to be down on

NJ: Van Ness Avenue. And they moved out on some other street now, way out. Anyhow, we gave concerts and one time Rube Wolfe -- I think that was his name -- he came out to hear us sing and he wanted us to perform down at the old Fox Theater, when that was going great guns.

DL: Did you always perform with the choral group? Did you, individually, ever give a concert at any time?

NJ: No. I hadn't worked up to that. Then my music teacher, she came down...

DL: What was her name?

NJ: Gosh, it's been so long ago.

DL: Maybe you'll think of it later.

NJ She was an old maid, as they say. But she taught me so much about breathing and what not. And one time I had to go to the hospital and stay overnight, one night, and the doctor asked me was I a singer. And I said, "Well, of sorts." Just like that. And I said, "Why?" He said, "Because of the way you breathe." So evidently it was showing.

DL: She taught you well! (Laughter). How long did you work as a domestic? Until Mary got into junior high school?

NJ: No, no. I raised her. I was determined. I said if we have to, you know, sort of beg for food, but I wouldn't do that. Ed was making fairly good money and I didn't want anybody else to raise her. I wanted it the way I wanted it.

DL: I wanted to know, when you and your mother were working, before you got married, how did you work out the financial arrangement? Did you give your salary to your mother? How did that work?

NJ: No, I didn't give it to my mother. I gave it to my sister Tabytho. Because my mother was working and having to stay on the place. Tabytha managed...

DL: The money.

NJ: Yes. I would turn the money over to her and just keep out of it enough for carfare and if I needed some underwear or something like that, why I'd know what to keep out.

DL: She paid the bills and the mortgage?

NJ: She paid all the bills, the payments on the house and all that. She did that.

DL: When your father was alive, did your mother and your father make those kinds of decisions about money and the paying of bills?

NJ: Oh yes.

DL: Your mother participated? He didn't make all of the decisions?

NJ: Oh, no. My mother was hard-headed, if anything. No, you better not try to make a decision for her. (Laughter.) She was too much like her own mother.

DL: What does that mean?

NJ: Well, my grandmother came up hard because she had two illegitimate children and she made her own decisions. And as I told you my uncle had to come try to find some place out of Texas for her to live because he saw where she was going to get in trouble.

DL: What do you mean?

NJ: She wasn't going to take a lot of stuff.

DL: From the White people.

NJ: That's right.

DL: Were there any particular incidents that got your uncle terribly worried?

NJ: Well, the way my grandmother would perform in incidents. Like for instance, she got angry at one of the children in this family she was working for. He wanted to scare her so he had an old sheet he got and put over his head and made some kind of noise. And my grandmother carried on like she was scared to death and got to him - kawump!

DL: And hit him.

NJ: Yeah, with a fork. Then (my uncle) realized that he had to get her out of there.

DL: So when your uncle got your mother and your grandmother out of Gainesville, your mother was a young woman in her twenties?

NJ: Yes, she was in her twenties.

DL: When and how did you meet your husband?

NJ: Well, there was a -- they called themselves the Mutual Club and they would give formal dances at... anywhere, you know, usually at a clubhouse or something. This place was on Clay Street between Van Ness and Polk. So Mother wanted me to go and I didn't want to go. I said, "I have nobody to go with," I was sort of between boyfriends. So she said, "Well, I'll go with you." And I said, "I don't want you to go with me." And we had a go around and so finally I said

NJ: "Well, all right." So I went with her. She was getting so much fun out of it. I came back and sat with her and I said, "Oh I can't be bothered with that little old man."

DL: Oh, you met him there?

NJ: Yes. He had come with some other people.

DL: And flirted with you all night.

NJ: Yes. And I would come and sit with her and I said, "He makes me tired." Because, I don't know, I'd always gone with fellows that were taller and Ed is so short. And it was funny, he said he knew, he made up his mind if I gave him the wrong phone number that that was it, he wasn't going to bother. So he asked me for my phone number and I gave him the number. What he wanted it for was he wanted to come out and he wanted me to help with a particular number -- Rachmaninoff's Prelude, C# Minor--I believe it was.

DL: To play it on the piano?

NJ: Yes. And he knew I played you see.

DL: Was it true? Did he really want you to help or was that just a line he told?

NJ: A line. (Laughter.) But, oh gosh, I've been so grateful. One fellow that I went with, the brother of Ira Graves, but that didn't pan out. But this one did and it's lasted for -- we'll be married forty-eight years on the twenty-sixth of December. That's a long time.

DL: What was the Mutual Club? Was this a church group.

NJ: No, no, no. It was a social club. Very nice, none of those ratty kind of things. It was a very nice club.

DL: Did your sisters belong or did your mother?

NJ: Mother didn't belong. She just went with me because I didn't want to go.

DL: Did you go often to their dances, or your sisters, or was this the first time?

NJ: No. They didn't bother because at that time they weren't considered old enough, you know.

DL: How long did you know your husband before you married him?

NJ: We went together for almost a year before we got married.

DL: I calculate that you got married in 1928 or 1929. That would make you

DL: twenty-five years old at the time?

NJ: Yes, sure, sure.

DL: How did your mother and your family feel about Ed?

NJ: At first Mother didn't... Well, I don't know. I think Mother didn't particularly care too much. She said it was very strange, she'd always tell me, "It's so strange No that you always find some light person." Because she was always fond of...

DL: Darker men.

NJ: Yes. Because my father was dark. Oh, do I wish that I had a picture down here of him. He was a very handsome man. But I couldn't help it. (Laughter.)

DL: That was her main objection?

NJ: Yes, that was all. But then she said she learned to like him. She said he was a very fine person.

DL: And what about your sisters. What did they think about him?

NJ: They took it right away. No trouble at all.

DL: Where is Ed from? Is he a Californian?

NJ: No. He tells people he was born in Washington D.C. but he was born in Virginia.

DL: And that's where he was raised, in Virginia?

NJ: Yes. Well, off and on. Really he's a remarkable man. He's a self-made person. His grandmother raised him because his mother went off and left him. He always wanted to be a doctor. Nobody ever encouraged him so he just didn't make it.

DL: Did he have a chance to go to school?

NJ: No. He would take correspondence courses and that's how come he got enough education and he passed the exam for the Municipal Railway.

DL: When did he come here to San Francisco?

NJ: I think he came here -- well he was here in the twenties.

DL: Was he in the First War?

NJ: Yes. He was in the First World War.

DL: Is that how he ended up out here, he was stationed here?

NJ: No, no. He bummed his way to San Francisco.

DL: Do you know why he came out here?

NJ: No. I don't know. I never bothered to ask him.

DL: What was he doing when you met him? What was he working at?

NJ: He used to work at the switchboard in one of those hotels right on Sutter Street, down in that area where they had... I can't think of where it is.

DL: That's all right. How long did he do that? When you married him was he still...

NJ: No. He was working at the Clift Hotel.

DL: Same thing, switchboard?

NJ: Doorman.

DL: Did he keep that job for many years?

NJ: Yes. And he took the exam for the Municipal Railway during World Wor 11 and he worked seventeen years on the Municipal Railway.

DL: When did he retire?

NJ: (In 1959.) Have you been to Audley Cole's?

DL: No. I was going to ask you about him.

NJ: Because he was the first (Black person to be hired by Municipal Railwoy), and oh, that man went through hell.

DL: Did you and your husband know Mr. Cole at that time when he applied for Muni?

NJ: No. We didn't know him. I got on the car and I kept looking (at him). I said (to myself) "It can't be." And I saw he was standing there by the motorman and I couldn't believe it.

DL: That there was a Black man working on the car?

NJ: No, no. He wasn't working. He was standing right by him because he was being instructed. So I came home and I told Mother and everybody. They were all so happy about it. But then afterwards I found out what a lot of trouble he was having.

DL: Did your husband apply long after this?

NJ: No, it wasn't too long after this.

DL: This was in the 1940's then.

NJ: Yes. I'm glad he did that.

DL: What kinds of jobs did your husband have between the 1920's when he came to San Francisco and when he applied for Muni and got the job?

NJ: He was a doorman.

DL: Hotels.

NJ: Yes. It paid fairly well. Mostly tips.

DL: When your husband applied for Muni and took the exam, was he accepted right away?

NJ: No, it wasn't right away. I don't know how long it was after (that). When he got the notice (that) he had passed and what not, I got on the streetcar and went down (to the hotel) and gave it to him. He was so glad because he wanted to get off of that job (at the hotel). It wasn't paying very much and depending too much on tips.

DL: Were you working at this time?

NJ: No. I didn't start to work until after Maryanna was in junior high.

DL: That would be about the late forties?

NJ: Yes.

DL: After the War?

NJ: You mean...

DL: When you began working again.

NJ: Oh, it was after the War because when she was going across the street here to Geary School, I was working in the PTA and I worked up to corresponding secretary. Then I was financial secretary.

DL: Was this volunteer or paid work?

NJ: No, it was volunteer. And at that time the War was on, and Maryanna, because she had a bicycle, was supposed to be a messenger.

DL: For who?

NJ: During the War between here (Geary School) and Roosevelt (School). And I was signed up on disaster relief. Ed used to tell me, he'd say, "Na, I think your isaster elief should be confined to your home." Because in those days we had to black out the windows and my mother, bless her heart...

.....END TAPE

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DL: We were talking about your husband's remark about your staying home for Disaster Relief because of your mother. Would you like to finish that story?

NJ: Yes. Mother had a problem, anytime the air raid siren would go off, why she would immediately have to retire to the bathroom. (Laughter). Because it seemed to affect her bowel movement. So my husband told me it would be best if I stayed home and attended to her rather than go down to the Disaster Relief headquarters.

DL: I'd like to get your impression of the Depression. Now, you were married in 1929, which was the start of the Depression.

NJ: That's right. It certainly was.

DL: Did the Depression make any difference in your life at that time?

NJ: No, not at all, because we were used to being in a constant Depression because of the fact that we were Black, and we were not allowed to participate or have any really good jobs. My husband worked for the hotel as a doorman and that's about all the work, that was the only worthwhile job he could get. So the 'Depression' is what we've always had.

DL: Were salaries affected in any way because of employers' being affected by the Depression? Was your husband's salary cut back?

NJ: Oh yes, and he was dependent mostly on tips.

DL: Did your mother--were the girls still living with her during the Depression, your three sisters?

NJ: Oh, yes.

DL: Were they working?

NJ: They were working. Mostly housework.

DL: What about Tabytho? In order for her to graduate when she did, she must have been in college during the early 1930's.

NJ: Yes, she was, but she was given a scholarship by the church that we belonged to, the Third Baptist Church. Her tuition was paid by the Church.

DL: She wasn't working, she went to school full time?

NJ: Yes.

DL: Do you know, in terms of the Black community in general, did the Third Baptist Church do anything to help members who were particularly hard hit?

NJ: Oh, I don't know. No, they didn't because (the congregation was) so hard hit, too. The contributions weren't as much as they would be and they knew (the members) just existed.

But we had a very fine minister, dynamic speaker, that was able to set up a scholarship fund.

DL: Was the fund set up for Tabytha or for other students also?

NJ: There were only two scholarships. One was to a native of India, and the other to my sister, Tabytha. And that's how her tuition was paid.

DL: And this was from the Church members' donations?

NJ: They had a certain fund that was set aside. Then, there was a friend of the family that made all of (Tabytha's) clothes because she had to have her clothes made as she was rather large.

DL: She didn't have to worry about that expense.

NJ: That's right.

DL: Do you remember the 1934 General Strike, here in San Francisco?

NJ: I wasn't in any way connected with it, so I really don't remember. I knew about the hard times that people were having, but we weren't directly affected (by the strike).

DL: So no one in your family participated in the strike?

NJ: No.

DL: I was going to ask you, if you had been involved, if you knew what the position of the Third Baptist Church was, if they supported the strike.

Did you read Negro newspapers during this time, the 1930's and the 1940's? Either local or national papers?

NJ: Well, yes. Once in a while.

My father wrote for a newspaper during his spare time. (The Western Outlook Oakland)

DL: I want to ask you some questions about World War 11. When the war came, what were your thoughts, how did you feel about it? Were you frightened or was the war something that was over there and not really of concern to you?

NJ: No, we were all very frightened. We didn't know which way the war would be going. There were some that were very disturbed particularly during the blackouts. They were really frightened because you didn't know. My husband at that time was working on the MUNI, and he was told that he had to, in case of a disaster, he was to take his bus across the bridge and end up in Santa Rosa or something! To this day he doesn't know why he was supposed to go to Santa Rosa. And everytime there was a blackout, that always frightened me, knowing that he was out there some place -- and where was he? That worried me very much. At the same time I went about my business. I tried to carry on my little First Aid work. I took courses in home nursing, First Aid, bandages and all that sort of thing. Geary School was a center where -- it wasn't exactly the Disaster Relief Center, Roosevelt School was the Disaster Relief Center -- but in case of an air raid, or people were hungry or something, we had, oh, the whole side of the cafeteria was chuck full of food stuffs, canned foods and all that sort of thing.

DL: What was the Disaster Relief Center. What did they do?

NJ: In case of a real air raid, we were supposed to go down to the Roosevelt School and anybody that was sick or without clothing or food and all that, we would bed them down and feed them.

DL: Was this with the Red Cross?

NJ: No, this was a whole school set up. The PTA.

DL: Was your husband, obviously he wasn't drafted. Did he go down to enlist?

NJ: No, he was in the First World War.

DL: Oh, he was too old?

NJ: That's right. He was too old. He already did his service. He was in the First World War.

DL: Right.

NJ: So, he wouldn't be drafted. He was too old. They only took the young men. This woman that lives next door, her brother was drafted and he got killed in the invasion of Normandy, and her oldest brother was in the service, he was in the Navy. So, it shows you that Ed would be too old.

DL: Most of your wartime activities were through the PTA and the Disaster Relief.

NJ: That's right.

DL: You weren't involved with the Buchanan Street Y or the USO?

NJ: My sister Hester, used to serve, give her services down at the Y, serving the men. My mother used to go down there and cook breakfast, mostly breakfast. Then we used to, I remember there was a group of fellows, sailors, used to come out here, to our house, and Mother would have the dining room table stretched from this wall to almost the other wall, and she used to cook. We'd donate what we had.

DL: How did the sailors end up here?

NJ: I don't know. Oh, most of them would go to Third Baptist and we'd bring them home, or, they'd say, "Mother Anderson, we're going home with you." They'd tell you!

DL: And there they were!

NJ: We'd make cakes and -- Down there on Broadway and Van Ness, on the corner, there used to be a hospital (Notre Dame). Now they're renting the space out to old people. We'd go down there and take cakes. We didn't know any of those fellows. We'd just walk in. And there was a woman that we bought coffee from and she'd give us her red stamps. During the war we had red stamps and we had green stamps. And (with) the red stamps you could get meat and so forth. It was rationed. And (with) blue stamps we'd get something else. So she'd give us her stamps, a portion of her stamps, so we could get sugar, and then she'd give us her red stamps for meat. And then there was something else -- margarine or butter, that was it. We'd use the stamps that she gave us.

DL: To buy stuff for the soldiers.

NJ: To buy -- we'd have to pay -- but we had her stamps, see. So, then we'd divide the butter and sugar and what not.

DL: Was that for the soldiers or the family?

NJ: For the soldiers. Oh no, we never used any of that for anybody else but for the soldiers. We'd take cakes and stuff to them.

DL: You had also said before that Maryanna was a messenger.

NJ: Yes, she was a messenger.

DL: For who? How did that come about?

NJ: Oh, she had a bicycle, so she was supposed to carry messages from the PTA at Geary School, to the gang that was working down at Roosevelt School. She had...

DL: For the Disaster Relief?

NJ: She was supposed to ride her bicycle. (Tape unaudible)

DL: Why did you feel -- by you I mean your family also -- that you should participate or help in the war effort?

NJ: It was just a thing we felt we were all involved in, no matter who we were. After all, it was our country and we felt we knew what we had; we knew what the other side stood for, and we didn't want any of that. It would be worse.

DL: Now, did any of the people you knew, any of your friends or acquaintances, Negroes, get jobs in defense plants?

NJ: Oh yes, there was a gang that came out here from the South and from other areas that worked in the defense plants.

DL: But did you know of any people that tried to get hired and couldn't get hired?

NJ: No, I don't. I never did.

DL: Were you aware that there was discrimination in hiring of Blacks during that time in the defense industry?

NJ: No.

DL: Were you aware in the early 1940's of A. Phillip Randolph's March on Washington? Did you know about that?

NJ: Yes.

DL: Did you think it would take place?

NJ: Well, I really hadn't, at that time, I don't think everybody was aware of the seriousness... (Tape inaudible).

DL: In the 1940's, were you interested in political issues and events that were affecting Black people?

NJ: No, I wasn't.

DL: So you were not involved in organizations or politics?

NJ: No.

DL: Were you a voter during the 1930's and 1940's?

NJ: I don't know when I started to vote. We had to be 21 to vote. I don't remember. I never was politically interested in events.

DL: And in community organizations? The PTA was basically the main organization.

NJ: Yeah, because of my daughter being at school.

DL: Now, what did you think about the influx of people that came to San Francisco during the war, and the consequences of these large numbers of people coming to the city?

NJ: Well, to tell you the truth, I didn't think too much about it, because after all people should be free to go wherever they want, whatever city they want to go to. In some instances, I think it was a very good thing, in some others I don't know. Sometimes I think it wasn't very good.

DL: In what sense do you think it wasn't. Do you feel it changed the city in some ways?

NJ: It did. Although in some instances I think it changed the city for the best but in other instances.... The ones that did come, that's fine. Then there were others that came and accomplished what they wanted to accomplish and went back home.

DL: Did your neighborhood change? Did people start moving into your neighborhood during that time?

NJ: Well, there were only really two families.

DL: Oh, then you were living here during that time?

NJ: Yeah. The Depression had hit us so that my husband and I had to move back here with Mother.

DL: So, this was after Maryanna was born that you and your husband moved back here?

NJ: Oh yes, we had our own place. The first place we had we rented from a very dear friend of ours. When Maryanna came we felt we needed to get a place by ourselves. This wasn't a rooming house -- we weren't rooming. We had a little apartment, it was only three rooms. And we needed a larger place. So we moved out here on Geary Street. We've always had our own place. It bothered me terribly to have to move back here.

DL: So, because of finances, you moved back, plus were your mother's finances tight?

NJ: Yeah, but Mother was making out all right. She had a knack for managing. So we had to move up here. It broke my heart. But it really was for the best because she was by herself.

DL: With the new people coming to the city during the war, not too many of them moved into this neighborhood?

NJ: No, that's right. Very few.

DL: Were they families who moved, those who did? Or was it single men without families?

NJ: Oh no, there were families. There's a family up the street here. And there was a family who lived down the street. There are very fine people.

DL: Were they White people or Black?

NJ: No, they're Black.

DL: Were any houses added or were all these houses here?

NJ: They were all here.

DL: Could you describe some of the changes that you did see take place in the city overall as a result of the numbers of people coming in? Did they start building a lot of new houses, that kind of thing, did Blacks get jobs downtown?

NJ: Well, that just really started, not too long ago, that they started getting jobs downtown. I'd say about 5-6 years ago, that people started really getting jobs.

DL: But during this time, the 1940's, could you describe any of the changes that you saw.

NJ: I think that was the beginning of these Black neighborhoods. Because, as I said, there weren't many that moved out to this area. There was a friend of mine who lives out on 41st Avenue. She used to live down on Webster. And she said that after her boys got to a certain age she told her husband she was going to get them out of that neighborhood because she didn't want to raise her boys there. She moved out here to 41st Avenue. But at that time there was a colored family out here and they sold them the house.

DL: It sounds like more Black people were moving out to this area.

NJ: That's right, trying to get out.

DL: Of the Fillmore District?

NJ: Right.

DL: Were you aware of any organizations that were helping Black people get settled in the city during the 1940's to get housing, child care, or just integrated into the city, the social life?

NJ: Well, you know for the most part, our people like to stay to themselves. They're very hesitant to mix with the Whites.

DL: Oh, I didn't mean integrated with Whites. I just meant into San Francisco, accommodated or adjusted to San Francisco. That's how I meant it.

NJ: Oh, I don't know. I don't think there were any. You know, you asked me about any of the social clubs. I forgot to name one large social club that existed at the time. I don't know why it disbanded, and it's gone its merry way. That's the Cosmos Club.

DL: What was that about, the Cosmos Club?

NJ: They always had large, huge dance parties, that we -- my sisters and I -- used to get invited to. We didn't always go, but they invited us. And whist was the main card game. They used to have whist parties all the time. There was a Mr. Lashley, you may have heard of him.

DL: I did, from one of the other people in the project. That's basically what they did -- the dances and the whist parties?

NJ: Yeah, they had lovely dance parties. People wore their evening gowns and what not, and like you said, we weren't always welcomed in these White hotels... [Tape inaudible]

DL: Are you familiar with Negro History Week?

NJ: Oh yeah.

DL: Did you know anybody who was involved in organizing it out here?

NJ: No, I don't. I really don't remember. I always heard about it from my friend, Mrs. (Teresa) Griffin (wife of Noah Griffin, former president of the San Francisco NAACP). Have you heard of her? Her two boys went to school out at Roosevelt. She always told me about it because she's from the South and we became very good friends.

One thing though, for a long time I hesitated telling anyone I was a native Californian.

DL: Why?

NJ: Because the Southerners always called us peapickers.

DL: Why?

NJ: I don't know. One day, all of a sudden I came to the conclusion, "Why should I be ashamed to say I was a native Californian?" So I stopped and I told everyone I'm a native Californian, a native San Franciscan. (Laughter).

DL: That is funny.

NJ: It is funny. They used to always call us peapickers.

DL: I wonder where that came from?

NJ: I don't know. I'll never know, they don't want me to know. (Laughter).

END TAPE 3:5:1

BEGIN TAPE 3:5:2

DL: So you think it might have been the 1930's?

NJ: Wait a minute. We got married in 1929, yeah, so it must have been the 1930's.

DL: During that time were you also a member of the Booker T. Washington Community Service Center?

NJ: No, I never did belong, really. Ethel Clark organized this choral group and then I became a member. Well, I used to go down to the center once and a while because that's where I learned how to knit and cast on. That's the thing I didn't know. I used to do the old fashioned casting on.

DL: Did Maryanna ever go to any of the activities down there?

NJ: No, she didn't. Oh, wait a minute, she used to go down there to this -- Anna Foster had a little dance class down there and she taught them a couple of folk dances. I went down there and I played for them.

DL: Those were the two main activities that your family got involved with?

NJ: That's right. That's all we ever did.

DL: What was the full name of the choral group you sang with?

NJ: Did we ever give it a name? I don't think so, we just called it the choral group. (Coleridge Taylor Choral Club).

DL: Did the group perform for the Black community only?

NJ: No, we performed for anyone. I mean, for an integrated audience, all the time.

DL: But the singers were all Black?

NJ: That's right.

DL: Did your group ever perform for the Fox Theatre? You had mentioned that before.

NJ: No, because there was something Mrs. Clark didn't like. She never discussed it with us. I had no idea what it was.

DL: In talking about your singing before you mentioned that one of your employers gave you free lessons in exchange for working. Did she pay you at all in money?

NJ: No.

DL: Then, how were you able to make it financially?

NJ: Well, I had another job that I did get paid for.

DL: How did you manage that, working two jobs? Did you go from one to the other in the same day?

NJ: That's right.

DL: Were these five day a week jobs?

NJ: Yes.

DL: You went every day?

NJ: Yes.

DL: When did your singing teacher - what was her name?

NJ: Miss Mundel.

DL: When did she give you your lessons?

NJ: Well, I went there in the morning, and then she gave me the lessons?

She believed in starting in Italian and she taught me the words and how to pronounce the syllables. And I had French and German in old Roosevelt. Well, I had German in the other school I went to when we moved down to Pine Street and I switched to German because they didn't have French. So I did some numbers in French and some I did in German.

DL: Were you with her a long time, taking lessons?

NJ: I took lessons from her for about a year.

DL: Why did you have to stop?

NJ: Well, she said that, wait a minute. She wanted me to -- something she wanted me to do. Frankly, I don't remember exactly what it was. There was something she didn't like that I said, so she said that she couldn't keep me.

DL: Were you very disappointed?

NJ: Yes, I was.

Incidentally, I saw her down at the Opera House, at some concert I attended. She said I was her star pupil. And I said to myself, "Then, why'd you let me go!" So anyhow, it worked out for the best.

DL: Did you ever take lessons after that with someone else?

NJ: No, I wanted to and after Ed was doing pretty good with MUNI, he told me that I could find another teacher. He said that he thought I had something.

DL: Did you find a teacher?

NJ: I had my child to raise and I started her in music, playing. She really plays very good.

DL: So you gave up your own aspirations.

NJ: Yeah, for her. Because those lessons cost -- at that time, it was considered a lot -- $10 a lesson. Because you can't get a piano teacher, or any kind of teacher for $20 or $30.

DL: Now?

NJ: Yeah.

DL: Were you ever interested in singing professionally?

NJ: Yes, I hoped to but...

DL: But not being able to take any more lessons...

NJ: That's right.

DL: What kind of singing...

NJ: For a long time I kept up my practice. I used to vocalize because I could play then. This hand, I don't have much feeling in this hand. You see, the stroke affected my left side.

DL: What type of singing did you do, was it operatic?

NJ: Yes.

DL: And with the choral group, what kind of group was that?

NJ: We sang mostly spirituals. A lot of people get mixed up with the idea of a gospel song. They're all spirituals to them, and they're not. We didn't do any gospel songs. We did (Nathaniel) Dett's arrangements of this, that and the other. And there was one particular one that we did. "O, Hear the Lambs Acrying". We did that. That was beautiful. I had the solo in that. Then one night we sang down at the old Civic Auditorium. And (Ethel Clark) said we were going to do "O, Hear the Lambs Acrying", and it scared me to death! I said "I can't" and she said, "Oh, yes you can!" So, we did it, and I couldn't believe that I was doing it! That's really about all there is to that.

DL: That was your stellar performance!

NJ: Yes.

DL: You enjoyed singing a lot, I can tell it.

NJ: Oh, I love it. Just sorry I can't...

DL: Do you often go to concerts since you're so interested in music?

NJ: Well, I tell you. I used to go to concerts until that thing happened with Elaine Jones. I refused to go to any concerts of the San Francisco Symphony because I don't believe that she got a fair shake. And I happen to know that during... One time Ray Taliaferro had the Third Baptist Choir on his TV show doing Handel's "Messiah", and they had a part with the Symphony Orchestra. I remember distinctly there was a Black in the brass section. Then there was a violinist, that was really out of this world. And they got them out of there.

DL: This was before Elaine Jones' time.

NJ: The horn incident, that was before Elaine Jones' time, before I realized that they were racists. So I refused to have anything more to do with the Orchestra after the Elaine Jones business. Although I'm sorry that I couldn't have gotten myself to go to that recent performance of a Wagnerian soprano. She was here last week.

DL: Did you have a favorite musician or favorite singer when you were aspiring yourself? Someone that you modeled yourself after?

NJ: Well, to tell you the truth, my first favorite Black singer was Roland Hayes. Every concert he ever gave, here, I went to hear him. Then Marian Anderson, then Dorothy Maynor. She had a heavenly voice. Just beautiful. When she sang with the Symphony Orchestra, Pierre Monteaux was the conductor with the S.F. Symphony. The rest of them I don't know.

DL: I'd like to change the subject now, and talk about your going back to work. You said you went back to work by the time Maryanna got into junior high school.

NJ: That's right.

DL: Which must have been about 1945, just around the end of the war, right. Why did you decide to return to work?

NJ: My husband was already working on the MUNI. I felt I wanted to go back to work. Maryanna was in Presidio Junior High, so I thought I'd go back to work.

DL: When you decided to go back to work, had you thought to go into interior decorating as you had originally wanted to do?

NJ: Yes, but I realized I wasn't going to get anywhere there. I had too much to learn. You have to know all about fabrics so you can advise a person. And then there's the money.

DL: How did you get that idea, to become an interior decorator?

NJ: Because I always loved creating things.

DL: What job did you get after you decided to go back to work?

NJ: I was a school secretary.

DL: How did you get that position?

NJ: Through the Board of Education, through Civil Service.

DL: Did being in the PTA help you to get the job?

NJ: I didn't even mention it.

DL: Could you tell us something about the job, what you did, where you worked at?

NJ: Well, my first job was at, I think they call it the Lombard School now, it was the Alta Vista School at the time, up at Hayes and Pierce. I think that's where it is, it's on a corner. I was working with the mentally retarded.

DL: In the school itself, working as a clerk?

NJ: Working as a clerk. Really, that was an education. I'll never regret having been sent there. They were having a time getting anybody to stay because it was the idea of working in the school with the mentally retarded. Nobody wanted to stay -- so I was it.

It was a learning process, really. I didn't know those kinds of kids existed. There were mongoloids, besides being mentally retarded. It was <u>really</u> an education.

DL: How long did you stay at that school?

NJ: I stayed there... Oh, I don't know how long. There was another gal wanted the job, so she bumped me, and then, dam it, if she didn't bump me out of the job I had over at the Frank McCoppin School!

The second job I worked at was Andrew Jackson School. That was a learning process also. The principal told me, she says, "Mrs. Johnson, I don't see why you

NJ: couldn't help me with the register." I said, "Oh, I'm sure I can." I didn't know what I was getting into. So she and I did the registers together, and that was really something. That was a learning process and that turned out all right also. Then, they wanted me to take Andrew Jackson and Frank McCoppin. So, I'd go for a while to one and then to the other.

DL: You split your day?

NJ: Un Hum. Finally they said "Please stay at Frank McCoppin." So I stayed there, and then here comes this woman...

DL: And bumped you. Where did you go from there?

NJ: Home. By that time I had to. I had cancer.

DL: You never returned to work after the operation?

NJ: No, because the next year I had this other thing (another illness).

DL: Were you at retirement age at this point?

NJ: No.

DL: You were still young enough to work?

NJ: Yes. And right the next year, I got this other thing.

DL: Did you continue in any kind of PTA activity?

NJ: No.

DL: You were too sick?

NJ: My interests had changed as far as the PTA was concerned.

DL: We didn't cover the PTA to any great length before. How did you get involved with the PTA?

NJ: My daughter was going over here to school, so I just made up my mind that I was going to get involved in the school activities.

DL: That's the Geary School?

NJ: That's the Geary School. First, they asked me to be the Thrift Chairman.

DL: What's the Thrift...

NJ: You collect tin foil. I don't know what the heck they were doing with the tin foil.

DL: That sounds like it was during the war.

NJ: No, this was before the war. So I was Thrift chairman. Then I became the Corresponding Secretary, and that was all right. Next thing they wanted me to do was (become) the Financial Chairman. I had to count the money from the pie sales or any kind of activity that they had. I was in charge of all this money.

DL: What did they do with the money they collected from the sales?

NJ: I had to sit down and roll all the money up, take it to the bank. I had to write checks. Oh, they put it right back into the school.

DL: Were you on any other committee besides the Finoncial and Thrift Committees?

NJ: They wanted me to take the presidency, but I refused.

DL: Were these elective positions?

NJ: Yeah.

DL: Were you the only Black parent at this time in the PTA?

NJ: Oh, then a few other Black parents started coming. And what they would do, they would all sit together, and they wanted me to come sit with them. I refused. Because I didn't see where that made any kind of sense. You're going to belong to something and you're going to sit by yourself? So I said no. They saw where I wasn't going to do that. Then they finally started getting in mixing. That's not the way to do it.

DL: When I asked you before if, once you stopped working, if you continued your PTA activities, you made the remark that your interests had gone in other directions...

NJ: I thought I had done enough. They wanted me -- out at Washington H.S., -- they wanted me to be the chairman out there of the Finance Committee. I said no. If I'm not going to be able to attend the meetings, I'm not going to have anything to do with the money. They got the message and I wasn't bothered any more with that.

DL: Did you become very much involved with Fellowship Church at this point?

NJ: Oh, definitely.

DL: Were you on any committees with the Church?

NJ: Oh, I served one time on the Board, but I couldn't be bothered with that. Me and board meetings never got along. I'm not that kind of person. (Laughter)

DL: Your other main activity with the Church was the choir?

NJ: The choir. It was always the choir. I sang with the choir even after my stay in the hospital. It was under Raymond Fong then.

DL: Was that before Corinne Williams?

NJ: Oh no, Corinne Williams was the first choir master . When she took the choir I was already in the choir and I continued with it.

DL: Was it a large choir that Fellowship had?

NJ: Oh, I tell you it was on both sides of the organ. They had a huge male section, tenors and basses.

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DL: The last time we were discussing the choir at the Fellowship Church and I wanted to know if you had an opportunity to sing solo.

NJ: Oh, yes.

DL: Frequently? Did you do most of the solos?

NJ: No, no. There were others they had. Say, for instance, if it was a bass or something like that. But I did a lot of the soprano.

DL: Oh, so your voice is a soprano voice. I thought you would be an alto because your talking voice is so deep.

NJ: I don't know. Everbody says that and yet, it's a strange thing. I always wanted to be a soprano so I stayed in the soprano section. But I know I had been told that my voice is much heavier than what I imagine it is.

DL: But your singing teacher trained you as a soprano also.

NJ: Well, she called me a mezzo.

DL: That's in between?

NJ: Yes. So I did a lot of the soprano solos and what not.

DL: Would you practice here at home or at the church?

NJ: Oh no, we had a regular practice night which was Wednesday and then we sang on Sunday. Well, before, maybe ten o'clock in the morning on Sundays we'd have to go up to church in Fellowship House, we called it. Corinne had a piano and we would -- the organist or pianist would play and we would practice.

DL: Did you ever do scales or anything at home?

NJ: Oh, I was constantly doing it. Vocalizing as they call it.

DL: What would your husband and daughter say when you were vocalizing? Would you do it when they were home or what?

NJ: Oh yeah. Oh, he never bothered. He would sometimes tell me it was either good or bad or "You didn't make it Na," or something like that. (Laughs)

DL: Did the choir only sing during Sunday services?

NJ: No, we oftentimes did the oratorios or what not.

DL: Just in the church or did you go to other places?

NJ: Oh, no. We never quite made that. The only thing, a really wonderful thing that we did, at least Dr. Thurman told us it was, because he said ours was the first church choir he had ever known to attempt to do Dett's "Ordering of Moses." And that was a whole book full of solos, duets, quartets and all that.

DL: How long did it take to perform?

NJ: Oh, it took about an hour to do it.

DL: And you did that in a Sunday service?

NJ: No, we did it as a special service.

DL: Did you have any solos in that one?

NJ: Well, the first time I didn't. Another girl did all the mezzo solos. But the last time we did it, under Raymond Fong, I did the solo that the other girl had done, which was quite deep. And then, under Corinne, we did Rossini's "Stabet Mater" and...

DL: Rossini is the writer?

NJ: No, the composer. The first time I didn't do this -- oh, it was a tremendous solo. But the last time I did it because the girl that had done it before... I always was very glad to get out from doing solos, because it's quite something to get up before an audience and sing by yourself and knowing you're out there all alone. But once you sing maybe three or four notes or a passage all that fear leaves you.

DL: You get caught up in the singing.

NJ: Yes. You really do. As I said, the last time we did the "Stabet Mater" I did the solo that was one that went from, I think it was a "C" up to a -- right away it just jumped up to a D# and I was able to make that transition. And a fellow that had a beautiful voice, he said I was really the first one -- he had heard that done, but I was the first one that was able to do it without dragging or something. I really felt that I was really on my way but these various illnesses stopped it. It was all right. I don't care. I care in a way, because I feel like I didn't reach fulfillment. There were so many other things.

DL: When did you stop singing with the Fellowship choir?

NJ: I sang with them until about three years ago. Because I went back in the choir after I had all these other things, and I was doing all right but I realized I couldn't make the notes that I used to make. So I said, "Well, I'll go in the alto section." I had never sung alto but I stood in front of a girl that sang right in my ear and I did a wonderful job singing alto to the point that a lot of times the director would say, "All right Naomi, let's have it." and that meant I was to come out with the heavy notes in the alto section. But I really preferred trying to sing soprano.

DL: Well, I think you did more than try.

NJ: I don't know why I've always wanted to be a soprano.

DL: But you must have been -- or at least a mezzo if your professional teacher...

NJ: Yeah, well my teacher told me I was really a mezzo.

DL: So you stopped three years ago because it was just getting to be too much?

NJ: Yes, it was. Because my breathing began to -- I wasn't able to carry over

NJ: passages that should be carried over. So I said, "Let's face it Na, call it quits."

DL: I'd like to speak to you about your husband.

NJ: Yes, surely.

DL: His name is Edward or Edwin?

NJ: Edward.

DL: I'd like to talk specifically about his job with MUNI. Now, your husband started working for the MUNI in the forties. And from what you said about the War, it might have been before the War that he began working with them?

NJ: No. It was during the War.

DL: Was there much bad feeling toward him on the part of the other employees?

NJ: No. Not toward him. It was Audley Cole that got all the... So many of the fellows would refuse to train him. He was a motor man and one fellow got beat up because he did train him, or start to train him.

DL: So by the time your husband came along they had accepted working with Blacks?

NJ: Yes. It was practically settled.

DL: Do you think the fact that your husband was kind of fair-complexion had anything to do with it?

NJ: Well, I wish you could see Audley Cole then you wouldn't even ask that, because Audley, he could pass for Spanish or something. And he has straight hair.

DL: Now your husband was a bus driver or a motorman?

NJ: He was a motorman, first, and then he went on the buses afterwards. You see, he was tired of being a motorman. He preferred working alone and of course you'd have to depend on the conductor to "ding, ding." And that was something he didn't like. That's why when he was a bus driver he went when he wanted to go.

DL: This was on the streetcars or on the cable cars?

NJ: No, no. The streetcars. They had streetcars then from the Ferry Building to the beach. And then there were streetcars -- of course there are still streetcars down Market Street. But there were streetcars all over the place. There was one that ran out to 33rd and Clement.

DL: Oh, instead of like now with the Geary bus?

NJ: That's right. And then there was one that went from the Ferry to Golden Gate Park. It turned at 10th Avenue.

DL: Most of those lines are now buses.

NJ: They're all gone. And they're all buses except for Market Street.

DL: How did your husband get the job at the MUNI? Did he just apply through the civil service?

NJ: Yes, because he was tired of working at a hotel -- doorman. And there was no money there except for tips so he was tired of depending on tips. So he always -- even though he didn't have the opportunity to go to school as we all had -- he took correspondence courses if he wanted to do something worthwhile. While he was just working as a doorman at a hotel. So he studied and took the civil service exam and passed.

DL: He knew at this point that Audley Cole had been hired by MUNI?

NJ: Oh, yes.

DL: Did your husband remain a bus driver up until the time he retired?

NJ: That's right. Until he retired.

DL: Did he become a supervisor?

NJ: No. He never wanted to be anything else.

DL: How many years did he have with the MUNI?

NJ: Seventeen years.

DL: Now, while he was with MUNI, did Mr. Johnson ever join the union?

NJ: Oh yes, sure.

DL: Did he become active in union affairs?

NJ: No.

DL: Just a dues-paying member.

NJ: That's right.

DL: Did he ever have any opinions about unions that he would come and talk to you about?

NJ: No. Oh, a couple of times they went on strike, and he would say that they were crazy. But he would go out with them. Naturally, you had to. He believes that unions have done a lot, which they have. And then when they're wrong, they're wrong.

DL: Did he ever attend union meetings and stand up and say something?

NJ: As I remember I don't think he did. He used to pay his dues.

DL: Did your husband ever speak to Audley Cole?

NJ: Oh yes. He knew him very well.

DL: Did he learn about what Mr. Cole went through from Mr. Cole or from the talk that other employees would have about the incidents?

NJ: Well, Audley, he had told Ed about what he went through. But he said he never paid any attention to it. He wanted the job and that was it.

DL: Did he ever get beat up? Mr. Coles.

NJ: No. His name is Cole, just C-O-L-E.

DL: I've been saying on "s" on the end. How did Mr. Cole get his job? Did he just take the exam?

NJ: Yes.

DL: Were you aware or was your husband aware that the Communist Party was interested in getting Black people hired by MUNI?

NJ: Uh - uh.

DL: So there was never any talk about that?

NJ: No. Un-uh.

DL: Now he retired in what -- the sixties? Your husband.

NJ: I don't know, when he retired. Want me to go ask him?

DL: We can get that later and I'll just write it in.

DL: I'd like you to talk about Maryanna.

NJ: Oh my. She's a character.

DL: I know you're very proud of your daughter and that you took a lot of time in raising her.

NJ: I did. I was very grateful that I was able to stay home and raise her as I wanted her to be raised.

DL: As opposed to having someone else take care of her.

NJ: That's right.

DL: May I ask why you only had one child?

NJ: Well, it was something that just couldn't be. Otherwise...

DL: What were some of the things that you were concerned with teaching Maryanna?

NJ: I wanted her, first of all, to learn to enjoy and appreciate church. And I wanted her, I taught her to be honest and that she could do anything that she had the will to do. Because that's what I was taught. My mother and father taught us that. That's why my sisters were able to go places because they had a will to, and believed that they could do it. They had faith in themselves and that's why I wanted Maryanna to experience all of those things. And she has gone places because she is a supervisor and she has, I think, about five or six people that work under her.

DL: Was it more difficult, you think, for you to teach Maryanna the values that you taught her than it was for your parents to teach you and your sisters? Given the changing times.

NJ: No. There wasn't any trouble at all. She did something the other day that I'm very, very proud of. She transferred her account to Wells Fargo Bank and she went in there, I think she was depositing some money and at the same time they were giving her back something because she always keeps out something in her check. So the girl counted out the money and it wasn't until she got home -- she owed me some money so she gave me what she owed me and she said, "I don't understand it. I have twenty dollars too much," after giving me what she owed me. So she went back the next day, went to the bank and asked to speak to this woman and she was on her lunch hour so they sent somebody else out. And she told him, she said, "Miss So-and-So," (I don't know what her name is), "she gave me twenty dollars too much." And she said they couldn't hardly believe it. I don't know, money like that to me doesn't do you any good. I can't see keeping something that you know very well isn't yours. And so I'm very proud of her for doing that. But that's some of the things that I tried to teach her. You don't lose anything by doing that.

DL: When she was growing up did your family get together often?

NJ: Oh yeah, we were constantly together. Wait a minute -- my sister Tabytha

NJ: died in 1935, so that left Hester and Mary. Oh, we used to have jam sessions.

DL: Talking sessions?

NJ: Oh yeah. We had more fun.

DL: Was Mary allowed to stay around?

NJ: Oh sure, sure.

DL: Could she participate in the adult conversation?

NJ: Once in a while.

DL: Depending on the subject.

NJ: That's right.

DL: Did Mary and Hester have any children?

NJ: No. I'm the only one.

DL: Did Maryanna ever meet any of her relatives on her father's side?

NJ: No, because he only had his mother that was still living and Maryanna always wanted to go back to -- her grandmother lived in Baltimore and Maryanna always wanted to go back and see her grandmother after she got sick. And somehow, she just didn't make it. She's only seen her once anyhow.

DL: Really? Did they write to each other?

NJ: No. I used to write to her. She came out here for the first time on an airplane. I'll never forget that.

Mary attended City College. I don't know, something went haywire.

DL: So she didn't finish?

NJ: After a while I said, "Well you take your time and decide what you want to do." So she says, "I think I'm going to go to work." So she went on to work.

DL: At first you were talking about when her grandmother came out here from Baltimore.

NJ: Oh, I didn't believe it really. And that was her first time to ride on an airplane.

DL: Oh. You were impressed by the fact that she took the flight?

NJ: Yes.

DL: Was she afraid?

NJ: No. Evidently not. She'd made up her mind so she came.

DL: This was during the time when planes weren't being used that frequently?

NJ: No, this was a long time after any scares. No, no. That was in 1955 she came here.

DL: Now did Mary ever meet your grandmother Tabytha Watson?

NJ: No, no. She was dead. She died around in 1919, something around there.

DL: What about your Uncle Green?

NJ: Oh, he was dead also. She never saw him,

DL: Did he ever have any kids?

NJ: Who?

DL: Your Uncle Green. Did he marry and have kids?

NJ: He was married but he didn't have any children. No.

DL: What about your uncles on your father's side. Did Maryanna ever meet any of them?

NJ: No. They were all dead.

DL: Did they have any children?

NJ: There was one, but I don't like to think about him.

DL: So, there's no close contact? The family that Mary grew up in was your mother and sisters.

Now you were telling me that your daughter is very interested in the family's history.

NJ: She is.

DL: What kinds of things do you think that you told her or that the family told her that sparked this interest in the history of the family?

NJ: There were different things, I guess, that we did tell her. She was so fond of her grandmother -- my mother. She used to oftentimes talk to Mother. They were great pals. Being the only grandchild, naturally they would be very close. And Mother thought the sun rose and set in Maryanna.

DL: Did she spoil her?

NJ: Oh sure. But that was all right. Well, Maryanna is spoiled, I know, because her father and I both were so crazy about her. If anything every happened to her it would be the end of both of us right there.

DL: I'd like to move on to your grandmother, Tabytha Watson. Did she help to form or is she the one that founded the Mount Olive Baptist Church?

NJ: She's the one that founded the church before New Mexico was even a state.

DL: Did she get other people with her to get the church off the ground?

NJ: There were a few that worked with her.

DL: But it was her idea?

NJ: It was her idea.

DL: Was she involved in other community affairs or was the church her main concern?

NJ: The church was her main concern.

DL: What do you remember about your grandmother?

NJ: I loved her dearly. And she used to call me -- no, it was my Uncle Green called me Nomi. She was a marvellous person - great character. And, as I said before, they didn't like people like that and like my mother. I'll never forget how my mother took care of me when I came home and I couldn't do for myself. And poor thing. I remember one time, I was so determined I was going to get up and walk.

DL: This was after one of your operations?

NJ: Yes. And I kept trying to stand up. And I took a notion I didn't need to hold on and I fell down, fell on the floor. And she covered me up -- because she couldn't pick me up -- so she covered me up and it was in the morning -- Ed was working on the buses and he did night work and it was just time.

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BEGIN TAPE 4:5:2

NJ: I had fallen on the floor and Mother covered me up and waited for him to come home. And I guess she thought she could help him pick me up but he wouldn't let her touch me, he said he would do it. I don't know how that man picked me up and put me back in bed and Mother said, "Na, please don't ever do that again". But I just was determined I was going to walk. Mother got her strong character from my grandmother. My grandmother was very strong-willed and had such determination to do something for somebody. And Mother inherited that because she went out -- she finally got a job in Joseph Magnin. I don't know what, it wasn't anything that was strenuous -- anyhow, then she had to retire because she was getting kind of weak.

DL: Was it maintenance work that she was doing?

NJ: No, no.

DL: What was she doing?

NJ: [Stockroom work at the store.] But she did -- maintenance work of some sort all of her life. Washing and ironing.

DL: What did she do at Joseph Magnin's?

NJ: I don't know what she did, I'll tell you the truth. It was in the millinery department. Probably put away hats or something like that till she retired.

DL: Was your grandmother working up until the last?

NJ: Up until she died. And I was in elementary school, I hadn't graduated yet, when my grandmother died.

DL: What did your grandmother do? What was her work?

NJ: The only thing she could do, then particularly. Things hadn't opened up for us at all. She made a living, an honest living. She washed and ironed and cooked. She had a job there in Albuquerque with a very -- oh, that house was beautiful, you know. She always worked for very rich people. So did my mother.

DL: What did your grandmother look like? What do you remember about her face or her body that really impressed you? Or sticks in your mind...

NJ: To me it wasn't so much her looks as it was her strong personality. She knew where she was going and what she wanted to do. Did you see her picture?

DL: Yes. Now in terms of your father's family, do you know when approximately your father's family came to San Francisco?

NJ: I don't know anything about them at all as to when they came. All I know, it was certainly before the Earthquake and Fire.

DL: You were here then!

NJ: I was here, yes. And I don't remember my grandfather, my father's father, because I was just a baby. The Earthquake and Fire was in 1906 and I was born in 1904 so I wouldn't remember him. And he had died. But Mother said that he used to carry me when he was quite feeble. And he said, "Well, she knows that she doesn't have to walk. That's the trouble." (Laughs)

DL: Did your father ever tell you why his family came out to San Francisco?

NJ: No. It's strange we never talked about it. That's what, to me, is so remarkable that Mother hung on to all those things that she hung on to.

DL: But your father never spoke about his people?

NJ: No. The only thing I know, I was named for his mother.

DL: You did tell me though that your grandfather...

NJ: Was a street-sweeper.

DL: Right. And your grandmother, did she work?

NJ: I never saw her. I don't know anything about her.

DL: You don't know how old your father was when he came out here?

NJ: No.

DL: He never talked about his childhood? Do you know how he got his job with the railroad?

NJ: Well, he didn't go to high school. I think he went one term to high school. His father, particularly, didn't believe in... I wonder if his father was a slave. He didn't believe too much in education. So my father didn't get to go to high school. But you would never know that he hadn't gone. He didn't learn the touch system but he learned to type and he did all the typing and wrote letters for the deck hands.

DL: Deck hands?

NJ: Yes. On the ferry boats.

DL: When he was working down...

NJ: Yes. The Santa Fe Railroad. But he was thirty-nine when he died. That's quite young.

DL: When he met your mother he was working as a porter on the trains?

NJ: Yes. And then she came out here and they got married.

DL: And then he became...

NJ: He became a redcap

DL: Why did he quit?

NJ: So he could be home. He was a great homebody.

DL: Did he ever become involved with the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters?

NJ: No.

DL: When your parents bought this house, was it a decision that they both made?

NJ: That's right.

DL: Was it something that they had been planning for for a long time?

NJ: Well, after we moved from Richmond, yes. My father -- well, the first place we lived was next door. Then we moved to Pine Street, then he heard about this place being up for sale. There was an old couple that lived here and they were about to lose the place, so my mother and father bought the place from this man who became a very good friend of ours. He had a real estate and insurance office down on Divisadero, but that's before Divisadero became as it is now. He gave those old people the difference between what they owed and...

DL: What your father paid.

NJ: Yes. And so Mother always admired him for that because he could have just as well take it and that was it. The old man was blind and the old lady used to lead him around.

DL: Do you know how your parents felt about owning a home?

NJ: They just felt that they wanted some place for us to call ours, and that's all. And I still don't know how in the world they did it. But the place wasn't that much money because property values weren't what they are now.

DL: After your father's death and your mother had to pick up on the house payments, was she determined not to lose the house?

NJ: That's right, that's right.

DL: At any time was it very difficult for her to meet the house payments?

NJ: No. Because the way she had it worked out - I was out of high school and I was working. We pooled our money and we gave it to my sister Tabytha and she managed the house and that's the way it was done.

DL: At any point, did all of the sisters contribute towards making the housenote?

NJ: Well, they couldn't because they were still in shcool.

DL: Oh, so your mother finished paying for the house before your sisters finished school?

NJ: Tabytha was out, or was she? She was out, yeah. I don't know when Mother made the last payment -- or Tabytha made it because she always attended to the business.

DL: Did you have a mortgage burning ceremony when it was finally paid.

NJ: No. We never thought of things like that.

DL: But your mother was relieved that there were no more payments?

NJ: Sure, sure. Then she worked up until she decided she'd call it quits because she was tired. I realize more than I did before that she was really tired.

DL: After she retired, did she have a few years of just being a retiree?

NJ: And then that's when she started going all around to see the sick people. She and another friend of ours would go down there to the housing project on Sutter and clean -- for this woman, her husband he drank or something. He'd gotten angry and stabbed her or, I don't know, something like that. And she couldn't walk. So Mother and this woman would go down and they'd give the house a good cleaning because there were several children. And they washed and ironed and all that stuff.

DL: So she really wasn't retired.

NJ: No, she really wasn't. Mother never did really retire. And then, we had had to move up here, and I'm glad I happened to be here at the time when she fell. She fell and broke her hip and couldn't, naturally, walk. They had to put a pin or something in there. And my sister Mary had died shortly before and my mother had lost the will to even make the effort to walk. I kept telling her, I said, "Mother, if anybody had told me you wouldn't walk I wouldn't believe it." Because I thought that would help.

DL: Did she ever walk after that?

NJ: No. I had to move her from one hospital to another . Because I couldn't take care of her really.

DL: Did she get a wheelchair?

NJ: Well, the church, Third Baptist, got her a wheelchair. I got her out, finally, at Laguna Honda. And really, they are wonderful out there. She was the pet of the whole crew. One girl called her, she says, "Oh come on, Indian." Because she had long hair. They would pet her and if she wanted more milk or more anything she got it. Mary and I used to go out there and would read...

DL: Your Mary?

NJ: My baby. As her book, the writing, would progress she'd take that chapter out and read it to Mother. And Mother would just sit there and cry.

DL: So Maryanna started the book while your mother was alive.

NJ: Oh yes. And she promised her she'd finish it.

DL: So she's got to do that.

Now I'd like to talk to you about your sisters again. To go over some of the details that we didn't get to before. Starting with Tabytha. In one of the interviews you said that Tabytha always used to get in fights.

NJ: Oh yes.

DL: What did she fight about. Were people picking on her or was she the one that...

NJ: Well, to tell you the truth, I never really knew what she was fighting about. Once in a while some kid would call her the famous name and that would start it. But the strangest thing about it all, I could walk back and forth to school down at old Roosevelt and nobody bothered me.

DL: Nobody called you the famous name?

NJ: No. I don't know what it was but Tabytha and my sister Mary, they were the fighters. They were constantly fighting. But Hester and I, we got along. Nobody bothered us.

DL: Do you think they were standing up for their rights, if someone tried to pick on them?

NJ: Well, I don't know. It's funny I never got pushed around. But they were really a riot. And Mary said one time, she said, "You know, I know I was bad. But I'm glad." (Laughter) She used to come home with -- they used to mark them, you know, poor and very poor. She would come home with a vp in deportment and Mother would ask her, "Do you know you got vp?" She says, "Yes, I know." Never seemed to bother her. But Mother had to go down to school and find out what was going on anyhow.

DL: With Tabytha?

NJ: No. Mother always knew what it was with her because they'd call her fat, you know. You didn't have to ask her. But Mother went down to school and they told her that they didn't know what it was that Mary would do, but she kept the class in an uproar. And Mother found out she made faces and did all kinds of crazy things to get the kids to laugh. And she seemed to be happy.

DL: You said that Tabytha liked to argue a lot. Was that with everybody that she would argue? Including the opposite sex?

NJ: Oh yes.

DL: Did she ever indicate before she graduated from high school that she wanted to be a lawyer?

NJ: No, not exactly. But I'm sure it was in the back of her mind because of that wanting to argue, you know. I guess it triggered something in her own mind that that was what she was best suited for.

DL: Everybody keeps reminding you or telling you that Tabytha was the first Black woman to pass the Bar in San Francisco, the California bar exam. Were you also aware that she was the first Black woman to graduate from Howard University.

NJ: Oh, no, no. Because Howard is multi-racial.

DL: Yes, but I think she was the first Black woman to graduate from the law school.

NJ: Oh. I didn't understand. Maybe so. I don't know.

DL: Yes, Mrs. Thurman...

NJ: Oh, did she tell you that?

DL: She said she had checked into it so it was verified.

NJ: Oh yes, she would.

DL: Now Tabytha was admitted to practice law in California in 1933.

NJ: That's right.

DL: And then she died in '35.

NJ: That's right.

DL: In those two years what are some of the things that she did? I know that you said that she took a case for a woman who was charging discrimination against...

NJ: That's right. It was a nice dress shop. I used to -- when I'd go downtown I'd maybe go look in the window or something. But I never tried to buy anything there. Because I didn't have the money for that sort of thing.

DL: And this lady was trying to be employed?

NJ: No, no. She was trying to try on a dress. And they didn't want her to. At one time there were some hat places and they didn't want our people to try on hats. You see, a lot of our folks they used too much grease in their hair and it would -- I think maybe I wouldn't want to, I don't know. But anyhow, it was trying on a dress. She didn't ask for employment.

DL: How did she know about Tabytha to come and ask her to be her lawyer?

NJ: Her mother was a member of Third Baptist so she told her to ask Tabytha. That woman's dead. But I don't know about her daughter, whether she's still living.

DL: Do you remember the lady's name?

NJ: No.

DL: Or the dress shop?

NJ: No. I'm sorry. I drew a blank.

DL: How did Tabytha come to be self-employed? Had she tried to find a job as a lawyer?

NJ: No, she just decided if she had to work out of her home, why she's work out of her home, until she got started. And then she was going to open up an office.

DL: I see. Did she have, aside from this woman, did she have any other paying clients?

NJ: No. This woman was her first case. Shortly after that she took sick and died.

DL: So the only income that she ever got was from this woman?

NJ: Oh, wait a minute, she had another case. But I don't think she got any money from her because we knew this woman and she was a blind woman and she played an instrument on the street. She didn't have any money...

DL: What was the case? What did she ask Tabytha to do for her?

NJ: I don't know. She got arrested a couple of times. Every time she called and Tabytha got her out. She hadn't done anything. I guess they wanted her to move because of her color. San Francisco is a lot more open now than what it used to be. As I told you before, nobody got a job in the stores or anything else like these kids are getting now. And I hope sometimes that they realize that the way was paved for a lot of them.

DL: I know my generation realizes that. The demonstration that you say Tabytha organized, the one against the Emporium, did you remember if she had done that in conjunction with the NAACP?

NJ: I really don't know.

DL: What else can you remember that she did in that time period? Well, of course she ran for the presidency of the NAACP?

NJ: Yes, and won.

DL: Did she discuss that decision to run with the family?

NJ: No, she didn't. She never told us her plans at all. We were surprised when she... We all belonged at one time to the NAACP. I haven't joined lately. I don't know, I don't ever hear of much of anything that they really

NJ: seem to be doing.

DL: But back then you were all members?

NJ: Yes.

DL: Was Tabytha on any committees or on the board of directors when she decided to run?

NJ: No.

DL: She just jumped up one day and said she was going to run?

NJ: Oh sure, sure. That's the way she did things. (Laughs)

DL: Did she tell you why she wanted to become president of the NAACP?

NJ: No, she never did say.

DL: Did she ever discuss some of the things that she wanted to put into practice or some of the things that she wanted to do with the organization?

NJ: No.

DL: In terms of her campaign for the presidency, did any of the family campaign for her?

NJ: We didn't know she was going to run.

DL: You didn't know...

NJ: No, she never told us.

DL: When did you find out that she was running?

NJ: She came home and said that she had won.

DL: At that point! Well, those of you who were members of the NAACP, didn't you have to vote or was it just the board that voted?

NJ: I don't know how they did it. Really, I don't know how that was done but it could have been just the board. I don't know. Because at the time, I don't remember whether that meeting was here in San Francisco. Yes, it was.

NJ: Before it was just the Oakland side that had the NAACP. And then we finally -- and I think Reverend Byers, I believe...

DL: Yes, that's what you told me before.

NJ: I believe he's the one that organized or got it going.

DL: Did you ever hear of a man called Alberga?

NJ: Oh, yes.

DL: He said he was also involved in organizing the San Francisco branch.

NJ: I don't remember whether he was or not.

DL: Where do you know Mr. Alberga from?

NJ: He was a lieutenant in the First World War. That's all I ever knew about him. My father knew him, I remember. But that's all I know about him.

DL: But, in terms of the whole situation of Tabytha running for office, you are not familiar with too much of it?

NJ: No.

DL: Because I wanted to know if there was any opposition to a woman being president.

NJ: Well, I'll tell you this, there was because the one man that was the president -- Leland Hawkins -- he was one of the ones that was very much opposed to her.

DL: Just because she was a woman?

NJ: Well, that's what we figured it was. Because I don't know that they've ever had a woman since, that has been president. No, I think it was because then, you know, there was quite an opposition to women doing anything.

DL: Was she able to get any of her projects started at the NAACP before she became ill?

NJ: I don't think so. Except that I know she was able to get the interest of the Butlers, the one that had the Butler Funeral Home. It was Hudson and Butler and then Mr. Butler came over here and started one. This was in Oakland, this Hudson and Butler. And he came over here and started Butler Funeral Home.

DL: So she was doing something with him?

NJ: Well, she got him interested. He and his wife had become, I guess you'd say disinterested in the NAACP and she got them to say they would work with her again.

DL: They had been active before?

NJ: Oh, yes, they were quite active. He used to be president of it. John Howard (Todd) Butler.

..... END TAPE

BEGIN TAPE 5:5:1

DL: Was Tabytha's illness (illness that led to her death) sudden or was it something...

NJ: It was quite sudden. No, in a way it wasn't. First of all, she was much too heavy. Then she had kidney troubles, which they say now, that kidney trouble is inherited or can be inherited. And that's what she died from. So did my sister Hester.

DL: From the kidney desease?

NJ: Yes.

DL: So she became ill and they had to take her to the hospital?

NJ: She went to Children's Hospital.

DL: And died shortly after.

NJ: Yes. But she was supposed to get a transfusion and there was a friend of ours whose son had volunteered to give blood.

DL: What was his name?

NJ: I think his name was Richard, Richard Thompson. So he was there at the hospital waiting when she died.

DL: Did you all have a family doctor?

NJ: Yes.

DL: What was the doctor's name?

NJ: Dr.... No, no. It was another doctor. Dr. Thompson didn't do it. I think his name was Gilchrist.

DL: That treated Tabytha?

NJ: Yes.

DL: After Tabytha died, did many people come to the funeral?

NJ: Oh yes. Third Baptist up on Clay and Hyde, it was packed. The same as when my father died.

DL: So community people -- was it just the members of Third Baptist that came?

NJ: Mainly community.

DL: So she was fairly well known.

NJ: Oh definitely. Because she'd been the first. (Black woman to pass the California Bar in San Francisco and first woman president of San Francisco NAACP.)

DL: Did members of the White community come to the funeral?

NJ: There may have been one or two of them. I know there were quite a few at my mother's funeral.

DL: White people?

NJ: Yes.

DL: Were these people that your mother worked with - that came to your mother's funeral?

NJ: No, she didn't work for these people. She'd gone to see this woman several different times--she was sick, had heart trouble -- this woman sent her husband. Then there were several members from Fellowship Church that came.

DL: How did the Fellowship Church congregation know your mother? Through you?

NJ: Oh, several different times they'd come to see me (after I had my surgery). Plus the fact that Mother had been up to Fellowship quite often. She had always wanted to hear Dr. Thurman. She came several times to hear Dr. Thurman. And then she would come when the choir did anything special. She heard the "Ordering of Moses."

DL: How did your mother learn about the people she visited and tended, when they were ill?

NJ: They were either members of the church, or -- there was a woman lived over

NJ: on Spruce Street that had an aunt that was in Laguna Honda, and Mother would go out there and take food and stuff. And then Mother Jones -- you remember, no, no you wouldn't remember her, but she was from the -- we call them Holy Rollers, but you know, one of those.

DL: Like Seventh Day Adventist? Or Pentecostal?

NJ: Yes. Pentecostal. I couldn't think of it. And she was sick out there at Laguna Honda and Mother would go to see her, and this other old lady, and then she'd go out to Fort Miley Hospital and visit out there. And she was taking food to these people. Mary told her, "Mother, you don't know whether those people are supposed to have that kind of food." Of course, they were eating it all right enough. She'd take Mother Jones scones, and this other old lady cookies and all that sort of thing.

DL: Who was Mother Jones?

NJ: The Pentecostal minister.

DL: Oh, she was a minister?

NJ: Yes, she was.

DL: Now, regarding Hester. You told me that Hester had graduated from high school at sixteen but because she was at loose ends she didn't go to college at that time.

NJ: No, she didn't.

DL: She was tested by this professor when she was in high school.

NJ: Termann of Stanford.

DL: Do you think that that experience at Stanford somehow got your sister off the track of going to college?

NJ: No, not at all.

DL: Was she impressed by the fact that she was being tested by a professor from Stanford?

NJ: No, it didn't matter to her.

DL: Since she didn't go to college, what did she do? What type of job did she get?

NJ: Well, she did what she could do, which was housework, or -- there was a French

NJ: family, they were quite fond of her. She cooked there. She was an excellent cook.

DL: Did she live there or did she come home?

NJ: She'd come home.

DL: Did she do housework up until the time that she applied for the MUNI job?

NJ: No, no, no. She had, as I said before, she had an unfortunate marriage, and she came back home here.

DL: Did she work while she was married?

NJ: No. She came on back home and went back to do housework, and then when the MUNI started opening up, why then she went for the job. In the meantime Mary got her to go out to U.C. and with three sessions that psychiatrist got her back to school.

DL: Why did she got to a psychiatrist?

NJ: Because Mary said she needed some counselling. And he got Hester back to school and that was it. And she went from there and was really on her way.

DL: Hester must have been in her thirties?

NJ: Yes. Well, I think she was. I don't know. All I know is she died in '45 but I don't remember how old she was. Maybe she was in her thirties.

DL: She must have been in her mid-thirties when she passed away.

She must have decided to go back to school shortly after she got her job at the MUNI. Is that right?

NJ: It was. It was. Well no, no. She decided to go back to school, (and) she got a job with the MUNI to help her through. She would work and go, oftentimes (to school) directly from her job, in her uniform.

DL: How long did it take her to finish up at school since she was working at night? I mean working during the day.

NJ: What she did were like those collect jobs and things like that.

DL: Collect, you mean collect the fares? Oh, so she worked on the cable cars?

NJ: No, no, no. Neither Ed nor Hester worked on the cable cars. No, no. They had what they called collect jobs. Now Ed, he worked a collect job which was

NJ: extra after he was a bus driver. They'd stand on the street and collect the fares.

DL: I see. Were there other Black women at this point employed as collectors?

NJ: No. Most of them were either driving a bus or...

DL: I thought Hester was a conductor.

NJ: She was. But she didn't ever drive a bus. No. She was a conductor.

DL: Did she work on a bus or a streetcar collecting money from the people while she was on the bus?

NJ: Yes, she did. She used to do that maybe on Saturdays.

DL: By this time were there a number of Black people working for MUNI?

NJ: Oh, yes. Yes.

DL: So there was no particular reaction to Hester.

NJ: No, no.

DL: Did you ever ride her streetcar?

NJ: No. I rode the streetcar when Ed was running it.

DL: Did she get her job by taking the civil service examination?

NJ: That's right.

DL: Did Hester join the union?

NJ: Oh, I'm sure she did. I don't remember but I'm sure she did.

DL: But she never came home and talked about her union activities that you recall?

NJ: No.

DL: Now what college did Hester go to?

NJ: State. San Francisco State. That's when it was really doing good work.

DL: What made her decide that she wanted to be a teacher? Were there Black teachers working in the public school system at this time?

NJ: Yes. I think Kathleen Robinson. Now she was really the first Black teacher in the public schools. Josephine Cole was a teacher first in a Catholic high school, then she got a job in the public shools. But Kathleen Robinson was the first.

DL: Did Hester know Kathleen Robinson?

NJ: Oh yes. We knew the whole family. Her sister Effie is, I think she's a social worker with the Welfare Department. I think it's a social worker. I don't know. Then Kathleen was a teacher and James Robinson, he's a teacher. He became principal of some school -- I think out in Hunter's Point. Jedidiah Smith, I think that's in Hunter's Point or some place out there.

DL: When Hester made her decision to be a teacher, did she talk with Kathleen about...

NJ: No.

DL: Did Hester have any feelings about there being any difficulty in her getting a position in the public schools system?

NJ: No. Because my mother drummed it into her -- anything we had the will to do and to work for, we could become. No, she never thought in terms... I'm so grateful that we were taught that. Although I didn't ever do anything special. I have a daughter though.

DL: You said that your sister Hester was the first to be allowed to student teach at...

NJ: At Frederic Burke.

DL: Were there any nasty moments over there?

NJ: No. Not a bit. She had personality, she was just brimming with personality and I think that probably helped a lot.

DL: The other teachers accepted her?

NJ: Oh yes. There was just Mary that had trouble getting in at the nurses' home but that was overcome too.

DL: Did Hester get her B.A. and begin teaching?

NJ: Yes. She just had a few more months and she would have gotten her credentials. She'd have to pass an examination but I'm sure she would have passed it. She just had a few more months and she would have been a teacher.

DL: What happened? Did she have a sudden illness?

NJ: Yes. She died of kidney failure.

DL: Now did both Tabytha -- well with Tabytha she had the other complications being over weight. But Hester wasn't over weight was she?

NJ: No.

DL: So she just had a kidney attack?

NJ: No, it wasn't an attack. I don't know what it was but I have been told since by a doctor that kidney trouble can be inherited. So my father died from it, and my father was over weight and my sister Tabytha was, but I wouldn't say Hester was.

DL: But was she having problems with her kidneys prior to...

NJ: I guess so. But she's the one that never complained about anything.

DL: Was Hester living here in this house while she was working and going to school?

NJ: Well when she came back... Yes, oh yes.

DL: Where did she come back from?

NJ: When she had this unfortunate marriage she came back home here.

DL: Did she ever talk to you or your mother about her plans in terms of teaching or remarrying?

NJ: No, no, no. She wasn't bothering about remarrying. As I said before, my sister Mary got her to go out and consult with a psychiatrist and he helped her in just three sessions and she went back to school.

DL: What was it? She was in a depression after the marriage?

NJ: Something. I don't know. I suppose so.

DL: Did Hester die at home or was she taken to a hospital?

NJ: She was in the hospital. She died at Franklin Hospital.

DL: Did the same doctor treat her or did the family doctor take care of her?

NJ: No, no. She had her own doctor. I don't know who that man was.

DL: Let's go on to Mary, the youngest. I figured that in 1929, which was when

DL: you married and left the house, Mary was seventeen years old. Did Mary go to college right after she finished high school?

NJ: She went right after she finished high school. Someone, I don't know who, gave her a letter of introduction to U.C. Hospital Nursing Program.

DL: In San Francisco?

NJ: Yes. And she did a three year training out there. She got her R.N., then she -- I can't think now.

DL: Are you trying to remember the sequence of what happened ?

NJ: Yeah. Wait a minute. Then she met and married somedude. (Laughter) She got married here and went to Albuquerque. That's where the fellow lived. And it was another unfortunate one.

DL: Was this Comelius Royal?

NJ: No.

DL: No?

NJ: No. His name was Collins. Then she went from Albuquerque to Meharry, and became a supervisor of operating rooms there.

DL: You're getting ahead. Let me back up a bit. How did Mary finance her nursing training.

NJ: Well, there was no fee charged.

DL: There wasn't?

NJ: No. But there was an old lady who used to give her -- I think it was five dollars a month. That seems like a pitiful amount now, but five dollars was a little more then than it is now, and she would come home and bum us for stuff, and got it. I think Mother gave her a little money, now and then.

DL: While she was still in high school did she talk about wanting to be a nurse?

NJ: Yes. She always said she wanted to be a nurse.

DL: And did her teachers in high school encourage her in any way?

NJ: No. Because she went to Lowell and Lowell was more for -- what do they call it? -- more of a prep school for college. No, they didn't encourage her.

NJ: I don't think they knew what Mary wanted to be because, for one thing, she played all the time and she got her block "L" for basketball and volleyball and all that. She was going in for sports, things like that. I don't really think they knew what she had in mind to do. But she told us that she wanted to be a nurse.

DL: Do you know why she wanted to become a nurse? Were there Black nurses practicing in San Francisco?

NJ: No. There weren't any that I know of. There is one girl since then that trained out at U.C. Then she went to U.C. and got her degree, her real degree.

DL: Are you talking about Mary or this other girl?

NJ: The other girl. Mary was first, and then Lazelle Westbrook was the second girl.

DL: Do you know why Mary wanted to be a nurse?

NJ: No. She just said she wanted to be. That's all.

DL: So when she finished her training at the Med School in San Francisco she had her R.N.

NJ: R.N., yes.

DL: And you say she married and went to Albuquerque?

NJ: Yes.

DL: Was her husband from Albuquerque?

NJ: Yes. He was from Albuquerque. He lived there. Then, that went out the window. After that she went to Meharry (Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee).

DL: How did she get the position at Meharry? Did she just apply for the job?

NJ: Yes.

DL: You said that she worked as a supervisor at Meharry?

NJ: Of operating rooms.

DL: She must have worked in Albuquerque?

NJ: No. She didn't work in Albuquerque at all.

DL: When she got to Meharry did she automatically become supervisor?

NJ: Evidently the job was open so they gave it to her.

DL: She had had no working experience except for school?

NJ: Well, for one thing, the stuff that they teach out there at Cal, at U.C., evidently gave her the knowledge and she performed to their satisfaction. She had no trouble at all.

DL: So how long did she stay at Meharry?

NJ: Not very long. I think it was for a year. Probably the contract was for a year. Then she came on back here and decided to go to U.C.

DL: Out at Berkeley?

NJ: So she'd get her actual degree.

DL: The Bachelor of Science in Nursing?

NJ: Well, I don't know what the degree was. It was a degree that would carry her farther than just the R.N. She got a job with some people over there just for her bus fare or whatever transportation they had over there in Berkeley. And she would work and during the summer she'd come over here and apply for private duty nursing so as to get her money for the following year.

DL: You said that she was working somewhere over in Berkeley for car fare?

NJ: Yes.

DL: Doing what. What was she doing? Nursing duty?

NJ: No. I think she helped around the house - ond then she came over here in the summer to earn her money for the following semester.

DL: Was she living here?

NJ: No. While she was going to Berkeley? No. She lived over there in a house.

DL: She went to school for four years for her B.S?

NJ: No, I believe it was two and half years.

DL: What did she do after that, after she got her B.S?

NJ: She got her job up in Sacramento with the T.B. Association.

DL: Had she remarried by this time.

NJ: No. She was -- I don't know when she married.

DL: Because this would be about 1941 when she graduated from Berkeley.

NJ: I don't know whether she'd married again or not.

DL: Did she spend the war up in Sacramento or was she down here in San Francisco?

NJ: No. She must have married about a year after she came from Sacramento because she got a job over with the Oakland Health Department. And that must have been when she married. I don't know. Then she worked for the Oakland Health Department, and they sent her to Columbia and that's when she got her Masters Degree.

DL: You didn't answer the question that I asked about the War. Was Mary in San Francisco during the War? Or was she in Sacramento?

NJ: The War was in...

DL: 1942 to 1945.

NJ: You know, I don't remember where she was.

DL: You don't see her during the War, in your mind's eye?

NJ: Oh yes. She was down here.

DL: You think she was with the Oakland Health Department?

NJ: She must have been. And she must have been married because she wasn't around the house . No, she wasn't. She was married for the second time.

END TAPE 5:5:1

BEGIN TAPE 5:5:2

DL: Did Mary work with the Red Cross as a volunteer or anything during the war?

NJ: No.

DL: Did she do any wartime nursing activity?

NJ: No.

DL: She was just with the Oakland Health Department. The letter that you showed me said that she was with the Tuberculosis Service of the Oakland Health Department.

NJ: Yes, she was.

DL: What did Mary do at the Oakland Health Department?

NJ: You mean after she came back from Columbia? Well, she was a supervisor and she had several nurses working under her.

DL: And before she went to Columbia what was she doing with the Department?

NJ: Well, she was just doing visiting and consultation with people.

DL: Was she the first Black nurse to work with the Oakland Health Department at that time?

NJ: As far as I know she was.

DL: Did anyone ever try to discourage Mary from her profession?

NJ: Oh yes. I know that she did get -- well, one woman in particular, I really don't know who she is -- she tried to discourage her.

DL: Was this someone that she worked with or...

NJ: No. It was somebody that had to do with -- tell you the truth, I don't know what she did, but I know that she did try to get her not to go into any more. It was all right that she was just a nurse.

DL: But not to get additional degrees?

NJ: Yes.

DL: Did Mary ever teach as a nurse?

NJ: She may have. She had several -- I don't know just what her job was then.

DL: Did she ever have any trouble finding or getting a job as she was advancing in her career?

NJ: No. None at all. As I said before, she'd come over during vacation time and take on private duty. She had no trouble at all. She was assigned evidently from a list of people that needed a private nurse.

DL: How did she get the job with the T.B. Association in Sacramento?

NJ: I really don't know. It seems like to me she was called up there.

DL: Do you know what she did up there?

NJ: No. I don't know anything about that. She had to stay up there. She didn't come back and forth. She got a room up there.

DL: So she might not have been married at that time.

NJ: Evidently not. No, no, no.

DL: How did her second husband, Cornelius Royal, how did he feel about her career, about her going east to Columbia University?

NJ: It was all right.

DL: When she went to New York did he go?

NJ: No. He stayed here. He seemed to be very proud of the fact that she was progressing in her chosen field. Not like some of us.

DL: Was he college educated?

NJ: No. I don't know whether he ever finished high school or not.

DL: The Oakland Health Department job was the last job that your sister had?

NJ: Yes. That's what she was doing when she died.

DL: Did she also have the kidney problem?

NJ: No. She had the same thing I have.

DL: What is that?

NJ: Cerebral hemorrhage. I've been told that if a certain blood vessel in the brain, in the mother's womb, is weak, sometimes you can go for years and years without anything happening. Now, this man right in back of us, directly in back of us, he had just what I had. And it's strange -- his wife, we talk across the back fence, and she told me just what I just said. That the doctors told her about. So I guess that was it. So, it was just strange that -- now, I'm the oldest one and Mary was the baby and both of us had the same thing. Only thing, hers was in two different places so they couldn't... See, mine was tied off. It happened to the right side but it was tied off on the left side.

DL: So, your sister's hemorrhage was in two spots and they couldn't do anything about it?

NJ: That's right.

DL: I saw that among the things that you had pertaining to Mary, there was a resolution from the California League of Nurses -- honoring your sister.

NJ: Yes. That's right.

DL: So it seems that she might have been the first Black nurse in all of the positions that she had out in California?

NJ: Well, I'm almost sure of that.

DL: What was your mother's reaction to surviving three of her daughters?

NJ: Well, I always will believe that Mother-after Mary died -- she didn't have the will to live. Mother had worked so hard all her life, and I really think she wanted to go.

DL: Did she die shortly after then? Mary died in 1958.

NJ: And Mother died in '69. She did survive her.

DL: Yes, by quite a number of years.

NJ: It is.

DL: So she was very depressed. Was it just over losing Mary because that was the baby girl or, realizing that all three were gone.

NJ: I think all three. And each one with such promise. I can see where that's a tough thing. And she'd look at Maryanna, she was crazy about Maryanna. She'd look at her and say, "Oh, my baby". Then she would put her hands up and say, "Any time Lord, any time." So I knew she didn't want to live. She really wanted to go.

DL: Did your mother continue her nursing, her visits to the sick or was it shortly thereafter that she couldn't walk herself?

NJ: No. After she couldn't walk, then she just gave up. I knew she wasn't happy just sitting there because that wasn't her, you know, to just sit. I'd get her in a walker and I'd hold her to be sure that she was steady on her feet -- I wasn't always steady on mine- -to be sure that she was getting around all right, and walk up and down with her. Then one time, she wanted to see if she could

NJ: do it herself and I said all right, let's try, and she would put her hands on my shoulders and I had to walk backwards.

That's the way my therapist got me to walking. I had to put my hands on the therapist's shoulders and walk along and then finally she got me on a crutch. I couln't use the one under my left arm because I had had cancer surgery, also. So the right arm is the one that's really messed up. I'd walk along with her and then finally she got the crutch under my left arm, and I could walk. I used to get up because I could just stand and I would get out and walk up and down out in front here. Then finally the therapist said, "All right, you're ready to go by yourself." Mother had a cane, and I walked with a cane.

DL: How did you feel about losing your three sisters?

NJ: I feel at times, I feel quite depressed. And then at other times. I don't know. I don't like the expression "It's God's will," because you know, people say that to you and I don't think it is. I get very disturbed, particularly when I see someone that hasn't anything to offer and they don't consider themselves anybody, and they get drunk and evil and mean and all that, and wonder why, when my sisters had so much to offer, that they had to go. There's always that question in my mind. Then other times I just throw it out and don't think about it. I don't know, you can't let yourself dwell on things that are unpleasant.

DL: Why do you think that your sisters all took positions that would involve their breaking barriers? That didn't allow them to leave things in status quo, in terms of Black women's positions?

NJ: Well, I think that they had a great desire, maybe not conscious of the fact that the desire was there, but a great desire to do something to show our own group that it can be done, and to be an example for them to never mind the ideas that it can't be because it can be. I think that that was their main idea.

DL: Did any of them ever state that?

NJ: No. They never did talk about it. They just said, "Well, I'm going to do it," and did it, that's all. I don't think that was their idea. Maybe it was or maybe it wasn't. I don't know.

DL: You think it had a lot to do with what your parents and your grandmother had taught you?

NJ: Definitely, definitely.

DL: As your sisters were growing up, all of you in fact, were there any indications that all of you or some of you were strivers or achievers in your school work or just in the way you approached life?

NJ: Now say that again.

DL: As you were growing up did you see in your sisters or in yourself that you were achievers, that you were going to achieve something, that they were going to achieve something?

NJ: I believe so. I really do.

DL: When your sisters were young women, when they were going off to college and starting careers, were they considered radical or progressive by their friends or by the Black community?

NJ: Yes, I think we were considered, as you say, progressive. I know one old lady, a member of Third Baptist, told Mary, "I don't know why you want to force yourself where you're not wanted." I don't know what Mary said to her but I know it must have been a mouth full because she didn't ever say it again. Because she felt that she had a right to do what she wanted and nobody was going to stop her. In fact, all of us did.

DL: Did they have friends who thought like them, who were also progressive?

NJ: There were a few of them, a few of them. I know for instance that Ira Graves, she was really my friend, she was a few years older than I am, and she felt that way. She was a bank teller long before we ever had any [Black] bank tellers. I don't know yet how Ira managed that, but she was a teller down at one of the banks. She was fair, yes, but her hair was like the rest of ours.

DL: So they would have known that she was a Negro.

NJ: They may not have. Just like my mother. Mother wasn't trying to pass or anything but I know, before the Earthquake and Fire, she was offered a job down at the Emporium. And that was years before -- the Emporium was about the last one of the department stores to break down. They wouldn't hire a Negro in the toilet. And maybe not then. I don't remember seeing one even in the restrooms. I know one time I had an account there, and Mother had an account there, and all of a sudden it came to me, and Mother too, that they didn't have us. So we closed out our account there and then we told them why.

DL: Now this was later, in the fifties?

NJ: Yes. Something like that.

DL: And they weren't hiring Black people?

NJ: No, not that I know, no. But I think Macy's -- what's Macy's now, it used to be O'Connor, Moffit -- they really were, in a sense pioneering. Because the fellow who used to play the organ at Fellowship, he became assistant buyer down there much later and there were Blacks all in there.

DL: Was the Black community supportive of your sisters in terms of morale building?

NJ: Oh definitely.

DL: There were just some people who were questioning?

NJ: Oh yes.

DL: Did community groups recognize your sisters while they were alive for what they were doing?

NJ: Yes.

DL: What kinds of things did they do?

NJ: Well, for one thing, several of them would tell them to keep up the good work and all that.

DL: Were there ever any dinners or testimonials in their honor?

NJ: In their honor? No.

DL: What about the family? As each of your sisters graduated from college did the family have parties here or something?

NJ: No. We didn't go in for that.

DL: Everbody just knew that they were proud.

NJ: That's right. And they knew it. They knew that we knew it so what's the difference.

DL: Now, as the first Black woman to work for the Board of Education as a school secretary -- did you know at the time that you were the first Black?

NJ: No. I didn't. I didn't know it until they had that little exhibit down there at the library. I didn't know that I was. It never occurred to me.
[San Francisco Public Library Exhibit, 1975, during Amer. Libraries Assoc. meeting.]

D: And you didn't sense anything from your co-workers, because you were the first Black person to ever work with them?

NJ: No. I had no trouble whatsoever. The only one that ever made me wonder, but I never let it bother me, was the second job I had - at the Andrew Jackson Schoo I said, "Uh-oh," to myself because this principal had real blue, piercing blue eyes and when I walked in there and I told her I was Naomi Johnson and I was going to work there at Andrew Jackson -- I could see. I said, "Uh-oh, here it comes." But she didn't let on afterwards. And she was very nice. She's the one that asked me if I had ever helped with the register, and I said no, and she said, "Well, I think if you would it would help me." So I said "Fine. Just tell me what I have to do." And she explained to me how I had to count up the days and the absences, and if they have a note from the parent that they were allowed one dental call or sick call or doctor's excuse. And I said, "Oh, all right." I said, "Do you mind if I take notes?" and she says, "No, that's fine." Because I didn't know whether I would remember all this. And from then on we did the register together. When I went out to Frank McCoppin, that principal was a fussbudget. She would run all around and finally I said, "Miss Delavin, can we do the register together?" She said, "Oh, I didn't know that you knew how." I said, "Oh yes. I know how." So after that we had a breeze. And it was shortly after that that this woman came and said that she had more seniority than I had. That's how I got bumped. And she came and told me that and that she was going to take the job, and I said, "Oh?" She wanted me to explain some things to her so she'd know the routine. So I said, "No, I don't think I will. You've bumped me from where I was so you take over." So this woman, the principal, got me and said, "Miss Johnson, please explain it to her, because I don't want to have to train anybody else again." She says, "I was just happy I was going to retire with you here."

DL: This was at McCoppin?

NJ: Yes.

DL: What was the principal's name?

NJ: Miss Delavin.

DL: And at Andrew Jackson?

NJ: Ossa was her name.

DL: Were you very disappointed when this woman ended up bumping you?

NJ: Yes, I was. But the strangest thing, it was right after that that I discovered my little knot that I didn't need.

DL: The cancer?

NJ: Yes. Then I got jobs subbing at other schools.

DL: When you got back from your operation?

NJ: No, no. Before I really found out definitely. Because I kept putting it off. Anyway, I think it happened for the best. And Ed had the job on the streetcar, and we'd gotten ahead as far as we needed to get.

DL: In looking back over your life and your sisters' lives, have you found that the values that your parents taught you -- that they were enough to get you by?

NJ: That's right. Certainly have.

DL: Do you think it would have been different if your parents hadn't given you the particular set of values that they raised you with?

NJ: That's right, that's right. I've always considered myself quite fortunate to have had the parents I had. Very grateful.

DL: Well, I would like to thank you for your time and for sharing your life with me and the other people in the project, and the people who will be reading the transcript. I really want to thank you. We're all very grateful for your contributions to the project and, more importantly, to our history. Thank you.

..... END TAPE

END OF INTERVIEW

FAMILY CHRONOLOGY

ca.1890	Anderson family (Lewis, Naomi and 3 sons) move to California
1898	Tabytha Watson founds Mt. Clive Baptist Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico
1903	Orval Anderson and Anna Watson marry, settle in San Francisco
1904	Naomi Anderson born, San Francisco
1905	Tabytha Anderson born, San Francisco
1906	after S.F. earthquake and fire, family moves to Richmond
1909	Hester Anderson born, Richmond
1911	Anderson family returns to San Francisco
1912	Mary Anderson born, San Francisco
1919	Orval Anderson, director, Colored Young Men & Women's Industrial Christian Assoc., incorporated
1923	Orval Anderson dies; Naomi gradutes from the High School of Commerce
1924	Tabytha graduates from Lowell High School; begins undergraduate study at the University of California, Berkeley
1925	Hester graduates from Lowell High School
1928	Tabytha graduates from U.C., enters U.C., Hastings Law School; Naomi marries Edward Johnson
1929	Mary admitted to U.C.-San Francisco, to study nursing
1930	Tabytha transfers to Howard University Law School
1931	Tabytha graduates from Howard U. Law School
1932	Maryanna Johnson born; Mary Anderson graduates from U.C. S.F.
1933	Tabytha admitted to California Bar;
1935	Tabytha elected president of the NAACP, dies a few months later
1937	Mary goes to Meharry Medical College, hired as supervising nurse of operating rooms
1938	Mary admitted to U.C., Berkely, graduate Nursing Program

1942 Mary graduates from U.C., Berkeley, takes postion with T.B. Association, Sacramento
Edward Johnson, second Black man hired as a motorman by Muni

1943 Hester first Black woman hired as a MUNI conductor

1943 Mary takes position with the Oakland Health Dept.

1944 Naomi Johnson first Black woman hired as a school clerk by the S.F. Board of Education

1945 Hester dies

1948 Mary goes to New York to attend Columbia University, Master's program in Public Health Nursing

1949 Mary earns M.S., returns to S.F. and Oakland Health Dept.

1958 Mary dies

1959 Edward Johnson retires from MUNI after 17 years.

Naomi retires from Board of Education

1969 Anna Watson Anderson passes away

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON MRS. NAOMI ANDERSON JOHNSON

For the African American Historical & Cultural Society and the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library
Blacks in San Francisco Prior to 1945 Project Oral History Interview

Name Naomi Anderson Johnson Date of Birth May 5, 1904

Place of Birth San Francisco, Calif.

Name of husband Edward Johnson

Date of Marriage Dec. 26, 1929 Place of Marriage San Francisco, CA

Children

Name Maryanna Johnson Date of Birth Apr. 30, 1932

Parents

Mother (maiden name) Anna Watson Anderson

Place and Date of Birth Sherman, Texas Oct. 6, 1880

Residences Sherman, Texas; Albuquerque, N. Mexico; San Francisco, CA

Date came to California 1903 Date of Death 1969

Father's name Orval Anderson

Place and Date of Birth Columbus, Ohio Feb. 13, 1884

Date came to California late 1800s Date of Death Nov. 1923

Date of Marriage 1903 Place of Marriage Albuquerque, N.M.

Grandparents

Mother's side Name of Father -------

Date of Birth ----- Date of Death -----

Name of Mother (maiden) Tabytha Watson

Date of Birth 1858 Date of Death 1919

Father's side

Name of Father Lewis Anderson

Date of Birth unknown Date of Death unk.

Name of Mother (maiden) Naomi Anderson

Date of Birth 1843 Date of Death June 9, 1899
(born in Indiana of free parents.)

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON Mrs. NaomiAnderson Johnson

My Brothers and Sisters

Name Tahytha Anderson Date of Birth Oct. 1, 1905

Date of Death 1935

Occupation Lawyer; president of S.F. NAACP

Name Hester Anderson Date of Birth Sept. 18, 1909

Date of Death 1945

Occupation ~~MUNI conductor; student at S.F. State College~~

Name Mary Anderson Royal Date of Birth ~~May 19, 1912~~

Date of Death 1958

Occupation Nurse

Comments: The Anderson-Johnson family is one of San Francisco's Black community's ~~prominent~~ families known for their many "firsts":

Orval Anderson--one of the directors of the Colored Young Men and Women's Industrial Christian Assoc., incorporated in 1919

Garland Anderson--Orval's brother, was a playwright credited with being the first Black person to write a play("Appearances") that was produced on Broadway

Naomi Anderson Johnson--first Black woman hired as a school clerk by the S.F. Board of Education, 1944

Tahytha Anderson--first Black woman to pass California Bar examination, admitted to California Bar, 1933

Hester Anderson--first Black woman admitted to student teach at Frederick Burke Demonstration School; first Black woman hired by MUNI as a streetcar conductor

Mary Anderson Royal--first Black woman to be admitted to nursing program at Univ. of Ca. Medical School

Edward Johnson--second Black man hired as a MUNI motorman

nursing services nursing education
CLN
citizen participation

california league for nursing, inc.
465 post street · room 202 · san francisco 2 · yukon 6-2559

1. Resolution presented by a group of Mary Royal's co-workers.

The passing of Mary Ada Royal on August 6, 1958 brought to an untimely end the services of a cherished colleague and esteemed leader in the field of nursing.

WHEREAS: Mary was born in California and for all her life has helped and inspired others;

WHEREAS: She served with distinction as president of Unit A, CLN for two years during a difficult interim period, served on national committees for NLN and for 14 years as Supervising Nurse in the Oakland Health Department;

WHEREAS: Her effective, democratic leadership, deep friendships and warm human relationships have left indelible impressions on all she knew; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED: That our tribute to her be paid, not merely in words, but in re-dedicating ourselves in service to human betterment.

GENERAL SAN FRANCISCO NEWS

(By Orval Anderson)

Plans are progressing for the grand Emancipation Celebration by the Mildred Dennis Literary Society, to be held at the Third Baptist Church.

Mrs. Irma Reed is very active in organizing the young ladies of the city into a worthwhile club affording wholesome and clean entertainment, and she deserves much credit for her untiring efforts.

Mrs. Ida Simmons, of Cook Street, received an urgent wire from her husband, Mr. J. P. Simmons, who has been in Phoenix for several weeks for her health. He was reported very low, and Mrs. Simmons immediately went to his bedside. A wire was received from her, stating that Mr. Simmons was improving and she expected to bring him home next week.

Mr. Eugene Hammond expects soon to have in rent service a very fine Pierce-Arrow car, taking over the car of his former employer, being a 66, a make that is not being turned out at the present time.

Mr. Green Watson, popular city jailer of the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico, returned to his home after having spent a few days visiting his sister, Mrs. O. Anderson. Mr. Watson has been jailer in Albuquerque for nearly nineteen years, and seems to be well on the way to remain there as long as he wishes, having served under several different administrations, with all the contingent political wire pulling to get him out.

Rev. L. S. Goolsby has been returned to Bethel A. M. E. Church and promise a series of progressive undertakings that will make old Bethel feel as in the good old days, as a meeting place for advance work.

The grand bazaar of the Missionary Society was a complete success. The ladies worked hard and earnestly and had several very fine articles on sale, while the attendance was not all it should have been, the support given by those presnt was very liberal. The dinner was the very finest and most complete for the money served at any time. Those who did not have their dinner served at home missed a rare treat by not partaking of the excellent repast served on Thanksgiving Day.

Mrs. Simmons, having been called to her husband, Mr. J. P. Simons, in Arizona, arrived with him from Toussaint on the 27th. Mr. Simmons was taken to the tuberculosis department of the San Francisco Hospital on the 29th.

GENERAL SAN FRANCISCO NEWS

By Orval Anderson

The Grand Union Sunday School and Church picnic promises to be the greatest ever given. The people are becoming much enthused over the affair and a full boatload is assured. The trip itself is sufficient to warrant everyone who desires a joyful day's outing to get on board July 14th. Full information may be had at any one of the three San Francisco churches.

We notice there is a sign out at the Booker T. Washington Community Center. It answers a long felt want, as now persons can easily tell where the center is located when passing. This is the day of improvements and we are glad to notice it in the Center although late in this regard.

Mr. R. E. Williamson arranged a grand auto ride and hiking trip for members of the Third Baptist Church Choir and their friends on July 4th. The party filled two automobiles and the trip included San Jose, Alum Rock Park, and, Niles Canyon. Some displayed a unique difference in their hiking suits and the Choir Robes. All voted it a grand trip with fine arrangements for the comforts of all, and wholly in keeping with the first-class style that Mr. Williamson does everything he undertakes.

We learn with much praise, for his prowess as an athlete and high scholarship, that Coleman Francis has been elected student representative to the San Francisco Athletic League from the Polytechnic High School. It proves his popularity among the students and speaks high for him as a superb athlete. He commands the respect and admiration of students and teachers alike. We wish for him continued success and election to the highest office in the school, president of the student body. We hope he will decide that Cole is not as reflectory a High School nickname as Smoke.

We heard through Mr. Starks a Pullman porter running from Chicago that Jack Haines a former resident of Oakland is filling one of the superior runs out of Chicago for the Pullman Company, and is looking as healthy and prosperous as ever, and with his eye out for a business opportunity.

Mrs. Alice Roland and son Hoytus and her daughter Mrs. Janella Freeman of Kansas City Kan., stopped over in the city a few days en route to Los Angeles, where they plan stopping for a few days ere they go home.

We learn with much regret of the arrest of Mr. W. H. P Pinchback on a charge sworn out at the Corporation Commissioner's office.

Mr. Pine a deputy commissioner said that he wanted the people to know that the proposition was a fake and sincerely hoped that the colored people would wake up and not invest

tion was $53.00. Mrs. Wm. Henry was presented with a token of the high esteem in which she is held by the Sunday School. She has long been an active and faithful worker in the church and Sunday School and, seems to never tire where the Sunday school is concerned. It is always well to remember those who give their time and money for such a good work.

Mr. J. H. Fisher spoke in behalf of the Union Sunday School picnic to be held on July 14th; he through his masterly recital of the affair having stirred up much enthusiasm and through his efforts alone, it promises to be a success. He addressed the church during the programme of the Anniversary.

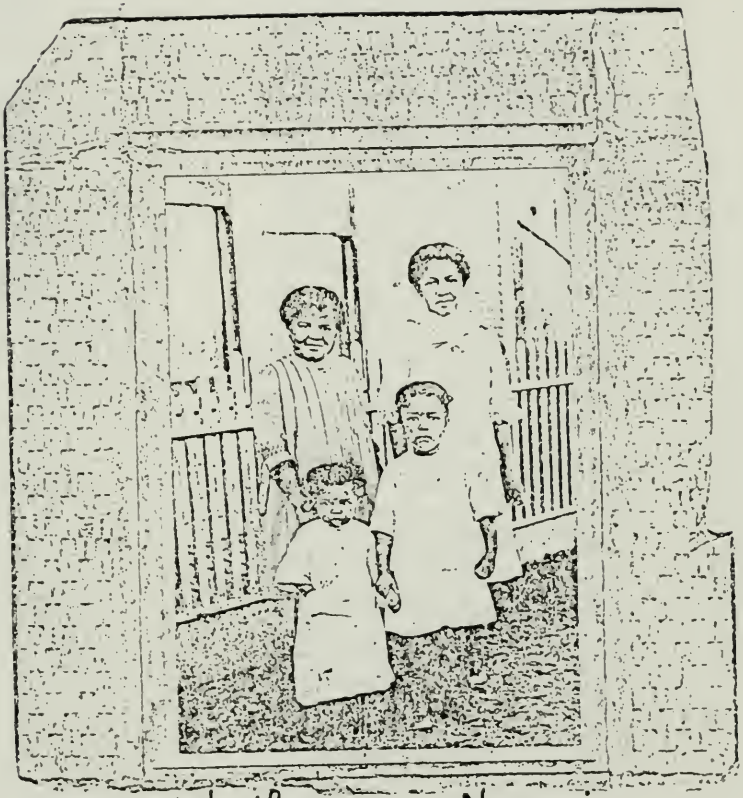
The Better Men's Club held their deferred meeting on Sunday July 3rd. at which a goodly number of men were present. This meeting was made necessary owing to the Anniversary programme running over the time, and the full meeting of the club was not held. Mr. Rogers put his subject before the meeting in masterly and forceful style. He enlightened his audience, and proved he is a deep student of affairs. The subject was "The origin of man and his destiny". The regular meeting will be held on Sunday July 10th., at which time Wm. White will be the speaker of the day. The club is still growing in interest and membership.

The federated women's clubs held a domestic science demonstration at the Third Baptist Church on Monday evening, June 27th. at which time they rendered a very interesting programme, covering the whole field of women's work. The demonstration of perfect table service was very good and worked up a ravenous appetite among those who witnessed it although the things mentioned were not served and the hostess and her guests imagined they were eating. We hope there will be more such demonstrations given as they will prove serviceable to all.

The Better Men's Club will give an entertainment in the very near future, featured by a programme of men only, including solos, duets, and quartets; also piano selections and speaking. The refreshments will both be served and prepared by men. So come and see what it is like to eat men's cooking in a church.

The regular reciprocity all day meeting of the federated women's clubs will be held at Zion A. M. E. Church on Wednesday, July 6th.

The ministers and women's club leaders are working for a stay of execution in the case of Alfred Ellis sentenced to be hung at San Quentin July 22nd. Mrs. Irene B. Ruggles we learn has sent a request for a stay of execution to the Governor and we hope that she will be successful, as this is a case where all colored people should be interested and hand together for the good they can do as a whole and not personal glory. Other people ha[illegible] see free where the extenuating circumstances did not exist as does in the Ellis case.



Top Tabytha Naomi

Maryada Hester

- Anderson -

[redacted]

San Francisco, Ca.

TABYTHA ANDERSON,
Lowell

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE ORVAL ANDERSON

By His Daughter

Around us, on every side we oft-times hear pessimists rail against the degeneracy of man. On the other hand, the optimist pictures human kind as angelic and above reproach. Neither conception is correct. Man is neither exceedingly bad, nor exceedingly good; for we judge values not by isolated examples of either extreme, but by the general average. There has been but one perfect man and for hundreds of years yet we may strive for perfection without attaining it. The worst men the world has ever known had yet a little good in them. In short, no man is wholly good, or wholly bad.

Men whose qualities place them above the average range of men are great, whether that greatness be coupled with renown or not, for they are great in their manhood and therefore their greatness needs not the lustre of international fame, for too often there are all too many weak spots in the shining armors of celebrities.—Witness Napoleon—the most marvellous of all military geniuses, yet wofully deficient in things which go to make a man.

Men, true to themselves, true to their country, amiable and cheerful, loyal, strong and loving dispositions who brighten the corner where they are—these are the world's greatest men.—Not Alexanders, Napoleons, Louis XIV.'s, or Cæsars, but men in the rank and file of the nation whose greatness is not in their genius, their wealth or position, but in that most valuable of all assets, their manhood, and therefore in themselves.

Such a man was my father. Poor yet rich—rich in the possession of goodness; not the graduate of any college, yet a master of arts—a master of the arts of humanity; large yet small—small in meanness but large in righteousness; and withal an intensely human man—sympathetic and kind. As one lady said of him: "He was all man."

—TABITHA ANDERSON.

ATTY. TABYTHA ANDERSON WINS S. F. NAACP ELECTION IN STORMY MEET OVER HAWKINS

Attempt to Blanket in Incumbent Slate Meets Opposition as Membership Criticises Past Years Activities of Local Branch

With what might be called "polite pandemonium", the San Francisco branch of the N. A. A. C. P. last Sunday held its much postponed annual election, and placed at the head of the organization, Attorney Tabytha Anderson, who slid into office after being nominated from the floor and defeated Attorney Leland S. Hawkins, incuhent.

The meeting started peacefully enough with reports from Mrs. Lelia Flippen, secretary, who told of the inability of the Board to secure a quorum in order to hold the election. She stated that the San Francisco Branch had not held a public meeting since August of last year. C. A Garrard, treasurer, reported that about $120 was held in the treasury and that $200 had been raised by Miss Daisy Lamplkins in the spring membership drive.

The meeting was at this juncture turned over to Mr. Joseph Forcinan, by president Hawkins the nominations of the committee consisting of Mesdames Eva Williamson and Adah Wilson and Mr Robert Fisher, announced.

They consisted of: Leland Hawkins, president; Jos. Forcinan, vice president; Lelia Flippen, secretary; Wesley Johnson, cor. sec; C. A. Garrard, treasurer; Board of Directors, Walter Maddox, Rev. F. D. Haynes, Rev. F. Hughes, Rev. E. J. Magruder, Mrs. Anna Magruder, C. Roane, J. Fisher, E. J. Reburn, Dennis Russell, R. Chambers, Mrs. A. Wilson, Mrs. E. Williamson, R. Fisher, J. V. Thompson, and Atty. Edw. Mabson.

Then Wesley Johnson, a student at State Teachers College, moved to receive the report and blanket in the entire slate. This was opposed by Rev. Haynes and several supporters, who were successful in placing the name of Miss Anderson on the ballot

When an attempt was made to suspend the rules and vote by standing, additional opposition arose. From Robt. Flippen. A standing vote was taken, however, and a ballot resulted.

Censure of the Hawkins administration was expressed and the blame for the lack of interest in the San Francisco branch laid to sketchy program and poor publicity. After and abortive attempt to adjurn the meeting, a secret ballot was taken, under the temporary chairmanship of P. H. Edwards, and Miss Anderson was elected president by a vote of 21 to 18.

With the addition of Seth Crawford, Robt. Flippen, Mrs. Anna Foster and S. S. Bozman on the Board of Directors and Rev. F. D. Haynes as vice-president, the other nominees of the committee were elected.

Miss Anderson, sought for a statement this week, said.

"I wish to thank those who had confidence enough in me to support my election to office. I shall endeavor to deserve that confidence."

"As president of the San Francisco Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. I hope to get the public interested and enthusiastic over the notion of a people united to battle for their rights and those of their children. I know that the task is impossible of accomplishment without the active cooperation of all classes and groups of Negroes, and I am hereby appealing for that cooperation. You stand behind the organization and me, and we shall be in a position to stand behind you. As President, I shall have no favorites and no class or group will dominate in the organization. With the help and support of you, we shall have an association of all people, by all people, and for all people. Advice and suggestions from any source whatever will be cheerfully welcomed.

NEW COURT TO HEAR

LAWYER DIES AS DOCTORS' EFFORTS FAIL

Youth Waits to Give Blood in Effort to Save Her

While doctors worked frantically to prepare her for an emergency blood transfusion in an attempt to save her life, and Richard Thompson, blood donor waited in the operating room, Tabytha Anderson, 29, brilliant young attorney and president of the San Francisco branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, died on the operating table at the Children's Hospital on Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock.

Miss Anderson had been complaining for only a short time, high blood pressure being the cause of her illness. Anemia was given as the reason for a transfusion. On Monday Jane Wilson and Richard Thompson stood by as donors, but the doctors pronounced her too ill. Tuesday morning, in a desperate effort to help her in her losing battle, it was decided to attempt the operation, but it was too late.

Miss Anderson was born in San Francisco, of pioneer stock, educated at the University of California, Hastings College of Law and took her degree at Howard University in Washington, D. C., in 1931.

The winner of a state wide ornatorical contest, Miss Anderson's career has been marked by exceptional scholarship. She was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, a trustee of Third Baptist Church, organizer of the Ira Aldridge Dramatic Club, member of the Irene Belle Ruggles Club and wa selected this year to the presidency of the N. A. A. C. P.

Services, held at the Third Baptist Church, were participated in by the Reverends Magruder, Hughes and Haynes. A vocal solo was offered by Kenneth Spencer, "I've Done My Work," and organ selections by Rev. Itasso LaBell. Interment was at Cypress Lawn Cemetery.

Mrs. Anna Anderson, mother, Mrs. Naomi Johnson, Mrs Mary Ada Collins, and Miss Hester Anderson, survive.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

July 22nd, 1935.

Mrs. Anna Anderson,
[redacted]
San Francisco,
California.

Dear Mrs. Anderson:-

It was with a feeling of personal loss that I read in "THE SPOKESMAN" of the passing of your daughter, Miss Tabytha.

My official responsibilities brought me in contact with your daughter on a number of different occasions, and I realize just how earnest and sincere her efforts were in behalf of many folks who were in need of just such efforts.

I recognize that no words of mine can lessen your sense of loss — only time can do that, but I wanted you to know that there are many like me who, although unknown to you, recognized the splendid qualities of your daughter.

Sincerely,

Russell L. Wolden

RUSSELL L. WOLDEN
ASSESSOR

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
69 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE ALGONQUIN 4 3551
Official Organ: The Crisis

WALTER WHITE SECRETARY
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WILLIAM PICKENS FIELD SECRETARY
DAISY E. LAMPKIN REGIONAL FIELD SECRETARY
CHARLES H. HOUSTON SPECIAL COUNSEL

August 2, 1935

Mrs. Anna Anderson
[redacted]
San Francisco, Cal.

My dear Mrs. Anderson:

The National Office wishes to extend its condolences to the family of Miss Tabytha Anderson, who served the Association so ably as president of the San Francisco Branch. You have our deepest sympathy in your loss.

Ever sincerely,

Walter White

WW:LB

Secretary

How do your Senators and Congressmen stand on the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill?
ENDORSED BY THE NATIONAL INFORMATION BUREAU, 215 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

MINUTE MEN ⊕ ⊕ MINUTE MEN ⊕

This is to certify that

Dorothea Anderson

has won First Honors in the

Junior Four Minute Men Speaking Contest

and has been selected as

Junior Four Minute Speaker

for The Third Liberty Loan

Hamilton Intermediate School (Miss Olsen's Class 6 B2)

Committee on Public Information:
The Secretary of State
The Secretary of War
The Secretary of the Navy
George Creel

Wm McCormick Blair
National Director Four Minute Men

(Valid only when countersigned by Principal)

By authority of the Government of the United States of America

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

September 27, 1943

Miss Mary A. Anderson,
[redacted]
San Francisco, California.

Dear Miss Cook:

We have your application as well as the applications of Mrs. Deitz and Miss Keene, and we are asking all of you to report to this office on Saturday morning, October 3rd, for a personal interview.

I might also advise that Dr. Richard G. Soutar, School Physician with the Sacramento City Unified School Department has a vacancy for one school nurse and while you are in Sacramento, I will make arrangements for you to meet with Dr. Soutar, so that in that way the three of you could be absorbed in the Sacramento departments.

Very truly yours,

HERBERT F. TAUL, M. D.,
City Health Officer

By (Mrs) Mary Ann Hawthorne
(Mrs) Mary Ann Hawthorne, Director
Public Health Nursing Division

LJB:3

CITY OF OAKLAND
CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

JAMES A. FAIRALL
HENRY W. HALEY
FRED N. MORCOM
DR. WILLIAM J. MCCRACKEN
GEORGE R. PETERS
JAMES H. QUINN
FRANK B. SHATTUCK
DR. JOHN F. SLAVICH

WHERE RAIL AND WATER MEET

N. N. ASHLEY, M. D.
HEALTH OFFICER

January 16, 1943

Miss Mary A. [illegible]
[illegible] " " Street,
[illegible], California.

Dear Miss [illegible]:

Thank you very much for your letter saying that we may expect you on Monday, January 18th.

Will you kindly report to the Health Center, 282 - 5th Street, near Harrison Street, to Mrs. Apollonia Olson? The Tuberculosis Service is the first door on the right as you enter the building.

I am glad indeed to welcome you to our staff and hope you will be very happy with us.

Very sincerely,

N. N. ASHLEY, M.D.,
HEALTH OFFICER

By Ethel Frances Murray
Ethel Frances Murray, R.N.,
[illegible]
[illegible] Nursing

mm/h

CLN
citizen participation

california league for nursing, inc.
465 post street · room 202 · san francisco 2 · yukon 6-2559

November 6, 1958

Mrs. Anna Anderson
[redacted]
San Francisco 18, California

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

Your daughter, Mary Anderson Royal, was an outstanding leader in nursing in our community. We thought so highly of her that at the recent convention of the CLN, we passed a resolution as a tribute to her.

We are sending you a copy of this resolution, hoping that it will bring you comfort in the realization that Mary helped so many people. She helped nurses as well as people interested in nursing and those receiving nursing services.

On the behalf of the Board of Directors and the membership of the California League for Nursing, se send you greetings and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Chesterman

(Mrs.) Helen Chesterman
President

HC:wh

Enclosure

Anna Watson
Anderson
b'rn. Sherman, Texas
died July 1969, S.F.

Taby tha Watson - born in Texas
5 yrs. of age when the
Emancipation Proclamation
was signed.

50th Anniversary

of the

Mt. Olive Baptist Chu

and the

INSTALLATION OF THE PASTOR

DR. JAMES R. C. PINN

Mt. Olive Baptist Church and Sunday School

MRS. TABYTHA WATSON, Founder

SUNDAY — OCTOBER 18, 1953

WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY — OCTOBER 21-23, 1953

0-14 LEAD AVENUE, SW ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Mrs. Anderson Return- Speaks at Church

Mrs. Anna Anderson of S Francisco, Calif., daughter Mrs. Tabitha Watson, fou of Mt. Olive Baptist Ch attended church services Su day at the church. She s on work of the church a time of its founding in 19

Also attending services Sunday were Mrs. B. B. son, wife of the late R. Johnson of Ft. Worth, and the Rev. and Mrs. Adams. He is a former p of Mt. Olive Church, a presently pastor of the So Baptist Church in El Pa spoke at both the 11 a.m. 7 p.m. services.

Tonight at 8:15 p.m. the M sionary Society of Mt. Church will present Mr S. Bryant in a talk on h cent trip to Bermuda. Mr Surrett, president, and m bers of her committee w serve refreshments. The lic is invited.

Articles of Incorporation

of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, of Albuquerque, N. M.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that Alexander E. Reynolds, Kent Penman, Mamie Green, Daniel Austin and John Collins, all of the city of Albuquerque, county of Bernalillo and Territory of New Mexico, all citizens of the United States, have associated and do hereby associate themselve together as a body corporate for religious purposes, under the laws of the Territory of New Mexico, on this the 25th day of November, A. D. 1904, under the corporate name of Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Albuquerque, N. M.,

The said organization shall continue and exist as a body corporate for the term of forty-nine years.

The principal place of business of said corporation shall be and is hereby located at the city of Albuquerque, County of Bernalillo and Territory of New Mexico.

The number of directors shall be not less than five, and the names and places of residence of the directors who shall manage the business for the first three months and until their successors are duly elected and qualified are: Alexander E. Raynolds, Kent Penman, Mamie Green, Daniel Austin and John Collins, all of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The objects of the corporation shall be as follows:

To promote and advance religion and religious worship in accordance with the faith of the Baptist Church of the United States.

To open, establish, conduct and carry on a Baptist Church in the City of Albuquerque, County of Bernalillo and Territory of New Mexico, and any other such church and schools, academies and institutions of learning and religion in said Territory as may be deemed advisable and necessary for the more effectual promotion of the principles and practice of the Christian religion.

To acquire by purchase, lease, donation or otherwise real and personal property, and to hold, lease, rent, sell, morgage or otherwise dispose of the same for the benefit of said church or churches, schools, academies and institutions of learning, and to do and perform all such other lawful acts and things as may be necessary and proper to effectually promote and carry out the objects and purposes of this incorporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have hereunto set our hands and seals this the 25th day of December, A. D. 1904.

(Signed)

ALEXANDER E. REYNOLDS (seal)
KENT PENMAN (seal)
MAMIE GREEN (seal)
DANIEL A. AUSTIN (seal)
JOHN COLLINS (seal)

Territory of New Mexico } ss
County of Bernalillo.

On this 25th day of December, A. D. 1904, before me personally appeared Alexander E. Reynolds, Kent Penman, Mamie Green, Daniel Austin and John Collins, to me known to be the persons described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that they executed the same as their free act and deed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal on the day and year first above written.

(Signed) JOHN H. STINOLE.
(Seal) Notary Public.

TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO }
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY. }

CERTIFICATE OF COMPARISON.

I J. W. RAYNOLDS Secretary of of the Territory of New Mexico do hereby certify that there was filed for record in this office at nine o'clock a. m. on the sixth day of July A. D. 1905,

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.

(No 4043.)

and also, that I have compared the following copy of the same, with the original thereof now on file, and declare it to be a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole thereof.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Territory of (Seal) New Mexico, at the City of Santa Fé, the Capital on this Twelfth day of March, A. D. 1907.

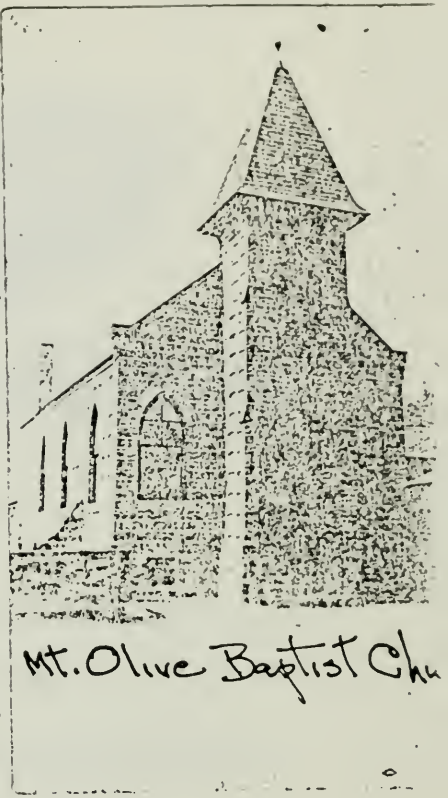
J. W. RAYNOLDS,
Secretary of New Mexico.

Endorsed: No. 4043. Rec'd. Vol. 5 Page 333. Articles of Incorporation Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Albuquerque, N. M.

Filed in the Office of the Secretary of New Mexico, July 6, 1905, 9 a. m.

J. W. RAYNOLDS,
Secretary.

Compared O to M.



DINNER AND CONCERT

BY THE LADIES OF

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

WEST LEAD AVENUE

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1913

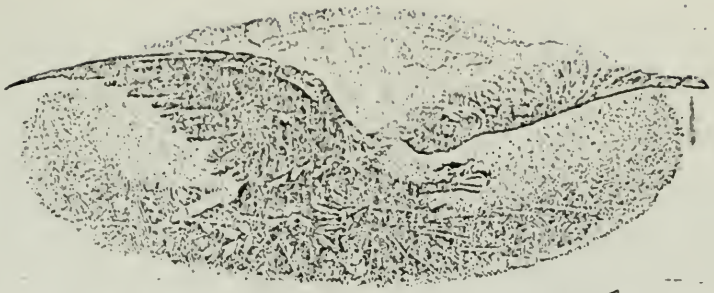
THIS TICKET WILL ADMIT ONE PERSON, WITH PRIVILEGE OF ENJOYING THE FREE CONCERT

ADMISSION 25 CENTS

MRS. T. WATSON, CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE

MINUTE MEN

MINUTE MEN



To all who shall see these presents greeting

This is to certify that

Tabythe Anderson

has won First Honors in the

Junior Four Minute Men Speaking Contest

and has been selected as

Junior Four Minute Speaker

for the Fourth Liberty Loan

at the Seventh Grade Patriotic Exercises of the Roosevelt School.

Wm H Ingersoll

National Director Four Minute Men

Committee on Public Information:
The Secretary of State
The Secretary of War
The Secretary of the Navy
George Creel

(Valid only when countersigned by Principal)

2-1511

By authority of the Government of the United States of America

Judges

Dr. Tully C. Knoles,—*President, College of Pacific, San Jose.*

Judge Benj. K. Knight,—*District Court of Appeals.*

Professor Martin C. Flaherty,—*University of California.*

Beverly L. Hodghead,—*President S. F. Bar Association.*

Ezra W. Decoto,—*District Attorney, Oakland.*

Robert Rea,—*City Librarian, San Francisco.*

A. J. Cloud,—*Deputy Supt. of Schools, San Francisco.*

Rules

Orations must not take over 12 minutes to deliver.

Orations must be original.

Themes confined to the Constitution, or the relations of Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison, Webster, Marshall, or Lincoln in the creation, development and interpretation of the Constitution.

Only restriction on the development of the theme is that the orations must increase interest in and respect for the Constitution.

Judges after considering the development of the theme, will allow equal points for delivery and literary merit.

Program

1. Message of Greeting—
   Joseph P. Nourse, Principal Galileo High School.
2. Advance of the Colors—
   By R. O. T. C. and American Legion Posts.
3. "Star Spangled Banner"—By the Audience.
4. Introduction of the Presiding Officer,
   Chief Justice Louis W. Myers,
   Supreme Court of California.
5. Music—"Menuetta all' antico"—*Karganoff*—
   Galileo High School Orchestra.
6. Drawing for places by the seven orators.
7. The following speakers will deliver orations in the order determined by the drawing.

to

13. *Emerson Wilson*—Reno High School, Reno, Nevada—
    "The Constitution."

    Glenda Carpenter—Oroville Union High School, Oroville—
    "Marshall and the Constitution."

    Philip Cavalero—Stockton High School, Stockton—
    "The Constitution."

    John D. Reese—Berkeley High School, Berkeley—
    "The Constitution."

    Thomas B. Flynn—Technical High School, Oakland—
    "The Constitution."

    Tabytha Anderson—Lowell High School, San Francisco—
    "The Constitution."

    John A. O'Kane—Sacred Heart High School, San Francisco—
    "The Constitution."

14. While the Judges retire to make their decision, the distribution of the District Prizes of $25 each, presented by the Chronicle, will be made.
15. Announcement of the Judges' Decision.
16. Presentation of the Chronicle Grand Prizes.
17. Final word by the presiding officer.
18. Retirement of the Colors.

CITY HALL
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

August 23, 1919.

Miss Tabytha Anderson,
[redacted] St., S. F.

My dear Miss Anderson—

I have the pleasure to inform you that, in your recent examinations, you reached the required standard for admission to High School.

When applying for admission, present this note to the Principal.

Respectfully,
Alfred Roncovieri, Supt.
per M. H. D. B.

The

San Francisco Chronicle

PRESENTS THE

Grand Finals

in the

National Oratorical Contest

on the

U. S. Constitution

Honorable Louis W. Myers, Presiding

GALILEO HIGH SCHOOL

San Francisco

Friday, May 9 - 3:30 p.m.

Program

1. MESSAGE OF GREETING—
   Joseph P. Nourse, Principal Galileo High School.
2. ADVANCE OF THE COLORS—
   By R. O. T. C. and American Legion Posts.
3. "STAR SPANGLED BANNER"—By the Audience.
4. INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER,
   CHIEF JUSTICE LOUIS W. MYERS,
   Supreme Court of California.
5. MUSIC—"Menuetta all' antico"—*Karganoff*—
   Galileo High School Orchestra.
6. Drawing for places by the seven orators.
7. The following speakers will deliver orations in the order determined by the drawing.

10

13. *Emerson Wilson*—Reno High School, Reno, Nevada—
    "The Constitution."

5 *Glenda Carpenter*—Oroville Union High School, Oroville—
"Marshall and the Constitution."

1 *Philip Cavalero*—Stockton High School, Stockton—
"The Constitution."

3 *John D. Reese*—Berkeley High School, Berkeley—
"The Constitution."

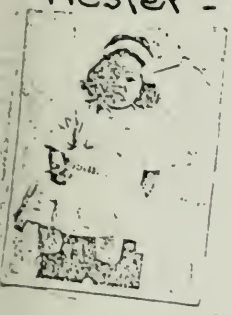
4 *Thomas B. Flynn*—Technical High School, Oakland—
"The Constitution."

2 *Tabytha Anderson*—Lowell High School, San Francisco—
"The Constitution."

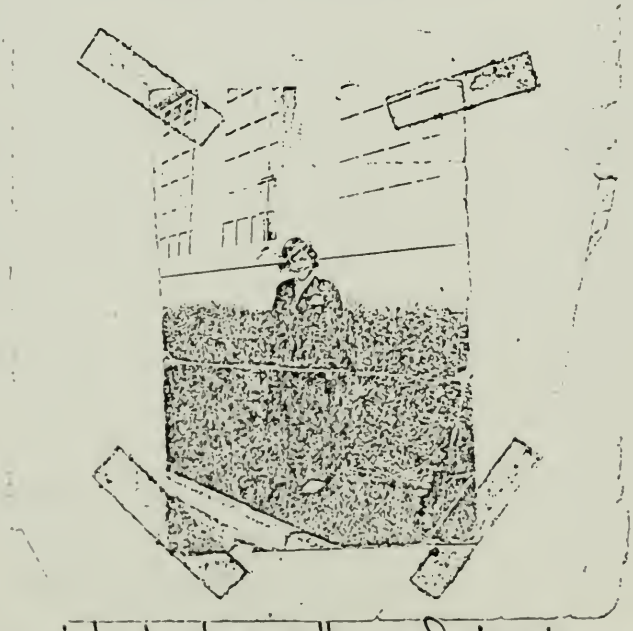
6 *John A. O'Kane*—Sacred Heart High School, San Francisco—
"The Constitution."

14. While the Judges retire to make their decision, the distribution of the District Prizes of $25 each, presented by the Chronicle, will be made.
15. Announcement of the Judges' Decision.
16. Presentation of the Chronicle Grand Prizes.
17. Final word by the presiding officer.
18. Retirement of the Colors.

Hester - 2½ yrs.



Hester Anderson



1st Negro girl to be allowed to teach at F. Burke School, demonstration school - SF State College.
1st woman to become conductor on S.F. Municipal Railway. (Pictured in uniform)

TUDOR FESTIVAL PRESENTS

[illegible]

by Christopher Marlowe

Cast of Characters: (in order of their appearance)

Chorus	Margaret Moore
[illegible]	John Ward
[illegible] Servant to Faustus	Herbert Smith
Good Angel	Julie Wessenberg
Evil Angel	Sylvia Guthetz
Valdes	Donald Blagg
Faustus' friends	
Cornelius	Jack McKannay
First Scholar	Vanic Gaulsten
Second Scholar	Donald Blagg
Mephistophilis	Carl Nichols
Lucifer	Lewis MacKitchie
Seven Deadly Sins	Hester Anderson
Pope	Robert Powles
Cardinal of Lorraine	Marc Davis
First Friar	Vanic Gaulsten
Second Friar	Jack McKannay
Third Friar	Donald Blagg
Emperor	Robert Powles
Knight	Herbert Smith
Duke of Vanholt	Robert Powles
Duchess of Vanholt	Caroline Bender

Attendants to Pope, Emperor, Devils.

Director [illegible] Margaret Moore
Costuming [illegible] Julie Wessenberg
Lighting [illegible] Herbert Smith

[illegible] STIVAL [illegible]

Everyman: a fifteenth century morality play.

(cast of characters in order of their appearance:)

[illegible] . . . . . Donald Bloom

God . . . . . John Ward

Death . . . . . Margaret Moore

Everyman . . . . . Marc Davis

Fellowship . . . . . Elmo Costello

Kindred-Cousin . . . . . Marjorie Hoffman

Goods . . . . . Patricia Ramsden

Good-Deeds . . . . . Mildred Shaw

Knowledge . . . . . Hester Anderson

Confession . . . . . Julia Wessenberg

Strength . . . . . Vanic Gaulsten

Discretion . . . . . Carolyn Bender

Five Wits . . . . . Ruth Feathers

Beauty . . . . . Dorothy Mantell

Angel . . . . . Robert Powles

Doctor . . . . . Carl Nicholls

Director . . . Margaret Moore
Costuming . . . Julia Wessenberg
Lighting . . . Herbert Smith

Tudor Festival gratefully acknowledges the kindness of Rev. Donald Brookman, Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, for allowing this performance to be held in his church.

J. B. HAYDEN
Chairman Board of Deacons
and Church Treasurer
H. J. WYNNE
Chairman Board of Trustees
MRS. WILLIAM WHITE
Supt. Bible School
WILLIAM M. WHITE
Church Clerk

THE CHURCH WITH A WELCOME

Third Baptist Church

Cor. Clay and Hyde Streets

F. D. HAYNES, Minister

Parsonage 1299 Hyde Street

Telephone GRaystone 4458

SETH M. CRAWFORD
Benevolent Treasurer
MRS. ETHEL CRAWFORD
Financial Clerk
MERRITT THOMAS
Pres. B. Y. P. U.
MRS. L. M. SMITH
Pres. Miss. Society

San Francisco, Calif., December 14 1933

Miss Mary A. Addison

We, the pastor, officers and members of the Third B. C., take this means of expressing how dear you are in our hearts, and to assure you that you have our prayers and sincere wish for the success of the voyage that you are launching upon tonight, further — that your little craft will be able to stand the difficulties of life.

J. B. Hayden
E. C. Dyeth
Mrs Picket
H. P. Peterson
Club # 2
Annie Perry
Cora J Thomas
B. Y. P. U.
O. Marshall
D. Robinson
B. Tyrrell

Mr. & Mrs. H. Wynne
Bill morgan
Mrs. C. White
Mrs Marin Johnson and family
Mrs Anna Martin
Mrs. L. Ross
Mrs L. Lawson
Mr & Mrs Larry Thomas
Mrs Almira Williams
Mrs Essie Caldwell
Mrs E. H. Clifton
Mrs E B. Rice
Mrs. L. Madison
Mr. & Mrs [illegible]

Miss Roper
Miss Mattie Lee
Rev & Mrs Haynes
Mr & Mrs J. Mo[illegible]

Mary Anderson

SUPERVISOR DIES

Funeral services are pending today for Mrs. Cornelius Royal, 46, supervisor of public health nursing for Alameda County, who died of a brain hemorrhage at a Berkeley hospital yesterday.

Mrs. Royal had been a member of the City of Oakland's public health staff since 1943 and until its merger with the county. She was a former president of Unit A of the California League of Nurses and was a member of the California State Nurses Association.

Mrs. Royal graduated from the University of California in 1942, was a graduate of University of California Hospital in San Francisco and obtained her master's degree in public health nursing at Columbia University in 1949.

Survivors besides her husband, who lives at 1334 Scott St., San Francisco, are her mother, Mrs. Anna Anderson, and a sister, Mrs. Naomi Johnson of [redacted] St., San Francisco.

Arrangements are pending at Osborne and Brant Chapel, 1515 Scott St., San Francisco.